Malacañang rejects proposal for emergency powers

Story below, Col. 4

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AGR

Corruption begins at home

By Volt Contreras

CORRUPTION, like charity, begins at home. Or so says Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David. Her proof? Parents

CORRUPTION/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Crime wave linked to cell phone cards

THE UNREGULATED sale of prepaid SIM (subscriber identity module) cards is contributing to the proliferation of criminal activities because these have been used in kidnap-for-ransom negotiations, extortion and even bomb threats, according to opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Lacson has filed a bill seeking to impose tighter control on the sale and purchase of prepaid SIM cards to ensure

CRIME/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, October 21, 2002 ★★★ 72 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 315 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Bombing hits Zambo anew; Marine killed

AUSTRALIAN performer Nikki Webster (left) comforts her friend Kristie Webster who lost her mother Robyn in the Bali bomb attack at the "Australians Together" ceremony in Sydney. GETTY IMAGES

PNP secret marshals back in Metro

By Julie Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and Martin P. Marfil, *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Suspected terrorists struck again in this major port city of Western Mindanao, exploding a homemade bomb that killed a Marine corporal and wounded 14 people at 8 last night at the Fort Pilar Shrine.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Diaz, Southern Command deputy chief, said the bomb was concealed in the frame of a pedicab parked near the entrance to Fort Pilar—a century-old shrine and church.

The bombing came after twin blasts tore through two department stores on Thursday in this predominantly Christian city. Those explosions killed seven people and injured more than 150.

Col. Alexander Yapching, Task Force Zamboanga commander, said Abu Sayyaf bandits were also behind the latest bombing, noting that the explosive used was similar to that in previous blasts. He declined to elaborate.

Most of the wounded were devotees and candle sellers, Diaz said. Hundreds of Catholics on Sunday visit the shrine to Our Lady of del Pilar, the city's patron saint.

The Marine was identified as Cpl. Alan Daguinotas of the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team. He was guarding the entrance to the shrine.

A spate of bombings in the country has prompted the Philippine National Police to field "secret marshals" in Metro Manila. The marshals will board public utility vehicles to prevent terrorist attacks like the bombing of a bus on Friday that killed two passengers.

"They are policemen who will be in plainclothes and they will be observing the situation inside the buses," Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said yesterday.

Velasco said the secret marshals would be complemented by uniformed PNP members who would conduct random inspection of buses.

In addition, stricter security measures will be imposed on bus stations whose owners have been authorized to use bomb-sniffing dogs.

BOMBING/ A18

SCHOOLMATES MALACAÑANG PHOTO
President Macapagal poses with Sen. Loren Legarda in their school uniforms during an alumni celebration at Assumption College in Makati City. The President graduated, magna cum laude, with an AB Economics degree in 1968, while Legarda was grade school valedictorian in 1973 and graduated from high school in 1977.

A minute of silence as Australians grieve

SYDNEY—Australia came to a standstill on Sunday to mourn the victims of last weekend's Bali bombings as a stunned nation attempted to come to grips with its bloodiest day since World War II.

Thousands of people gathered at ceremonies in churches, parks, on beaches and at football grounds to grieve for more than 100 Australians who died in last Saturday's nightclub attacks.

The country paused for a minute's silence at midday as church bells tolled across the continent.

"We, the survivors, saw some truly horrendous things that will never leave us," Eric de Haart told a gathering for his six missing teammates at a Sydney rugby league club.

"In the dark days to come ahead we will need your help and support," De Haart said, choking back tears.

Prime Minister John Howard said his government had to stay committed to the US-led war on terror and warned there was an increased risk of an attack on Australian soil.

A MINUTE/ A19

Palace rejects proposal for emergency powers

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's call for unity and sobriety in the wake of last week's bombings got a warm reception in Congress yesterday, but the proposal of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez to arm her with emergency powers got the cold shoulder.

"(The proposal) is a knee-jerk reaction to the situation and expresses panic, when the President is calling for sobriety," Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said.

What should be done instead is to strengthen the country's intelligence system, Rosales said, adding that she agreed with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's proposal for a review of the intelligence system that dates all the way back to Ferdinand Marcos.

Malacañang quickly rejected Gonzalez's proposal, with the President's chief political adviser saying emergency powers were not needed at all.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the opposition supported the President's call for unity and solidarity to effectively combat terrorism. But he said the minority would "scrutinize" the Gonzalez resolution because

PALACE/ A18

Anti-terror pact pushed

By Norman Bordadora
and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE PHILIPPINES will initiate a meeting with officials from Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia to implement a regional anti-terrorism agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the international committee formed at the soonest time.

"(The President) said it's about time (to convene the committee)," Baja said in a chance interview. Ms Macapagal had called for the activation of the anti-terror pact in a letter she sent to Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri after the Bali blasts and the explosion at the Philippine consulate general in Mana-

ANTI-TERROR/ A20

Parking restricted in Palace compound

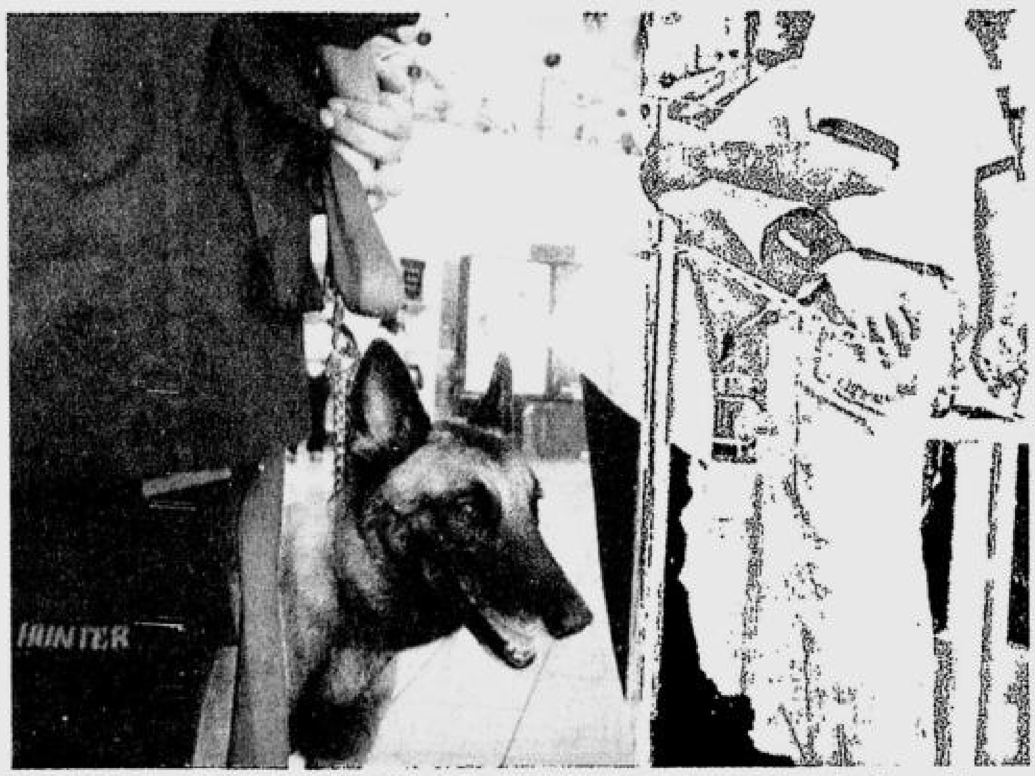
By Carlito Pablo
and Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN as it called on the people to stay calm and go on with their lives as normally as possible, Malacañang is tightening its security setup.

Apparently to thwart a car-bomb attack, the Presidential Security Group (PSG) will ban, starting today, the parking of vehicles in front of the Kalayaan Hall, which adjoins both the Office of the President and the official residence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a strange coincidence, the PSG ordered the Kalayaan Hall vacated yesterday so that its rooms could be "fumigated" against bugs

PARKING/ A18



A POLICE Special Action Force sniffer dog joins the tight security watch at the Shangri-La commercial complex in Mandaluyong City. A heightened security alert has been raised following a series of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila last week. VAL HANDUMON

Gov't suffers from serious image problem

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is sailing into the most unsettling period of her presidency since the May 1, 2001 rebellion as the country and the economy reel from the shock waves of terrorist attacks in southern Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Unlike in the May rebellion, when the President was riding on the crest of high moral authority, this time she is widely perceived to have lost the ethical high ground and the credibility necessary to pull the nation together in this emerging crisis of confidence in her administration.

There is widespread and strong undercurrent of dissatisfaction with her leadership which finds expression in such comments as her administra-

GOV'T/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/21/02

Second FrontPage

Militants: Gov't behind terror attacks

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups have accused the government of being behind the recent spate of bombings, "to condition the people's minds by creating a climate of fear to justify the declaration of a state of emergency and pave the way for an open fascist rule".

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) said the bombings last week in Zamboanga and Quezon cities were the work of military agents out to create panic to pressure Congress into passing an antiterrorism act and justify the implementation of a national ID system.

"(The President) is absolutely wrong if she thinks of thwarting the people's fury by such state-led terrorist acts," said KMP chair Rafael Mariano.

The two groups said they would push through today with protest actions calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, despite the bomb scare that is gripping Metro Manila following the bus bombing in Quezon City last Friday.

The KMP and KMU, which had declared a national day of protest on Oct. 21, said they intend to carry on with the protests "despite President Macapagal's and the military's bomb-scaring tactics."

Authorities have said they suspect Moro rebels or communist guerillas of being behind the bombings.

The President had urged the people to go on with their normal activities and not be bullied by "a few troublemakers with limited capabilities."

Mariano said only the government and the military had "the resources, motives and capability to launch these highly condemnable terrorist acts".

He claimed Ms Macapagal and her administration benefited from the terrorist acts.

"The series of bombings is one of Ms Macapagal's highly desperate acts to advance her militarist policies like the national ID system, the proposed anti-terrorism act, militarization in the countryside and increased police visibility in the cities," he said.

Mariano said more than 10,000 workers and peasants will join a protest rally at Mendiola and the US Embassy in Manila today.

Early yesterday, two busloads of farmers from the Cordillera Autonomous Region arrived and pitched tents in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City. In the afternoon, more than 4,000 farmers and workers from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions also assembled at the DAR.

KMP and KMU chapters nationwide will also hold simultaneous protest actions in major urban centers and cities nationwide to demand the President's ouster.

"We are seriously fed up with her militarist war-mongering attitude," said KMU secretary general Elmer Labog.

Labog said the government has been "waging war against the people on all fronts."

"Macapagal-Arroyo is attacking our livelihood by keeping our wages down and permitting successive price hikes. At the same time, she is bound to give the people deadly blows with the probable launching of an all-out war, not just against the CPP-NPA and other armed movements but also against legitimate and democratic peoples mass organizations and the entire population," he said.

"UNCLE Sam and GMA" stand among members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who staged a die-in at the Quezon City Memorial Circle yesterday, a prelude to more protests against the government set for today.

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Zamboanga City traders buck terror threat

ZAMBOANGA CITY—It was business as usual in this city four days after twin bombs exploded in its commercial center killing seven people and wounding 152 others.

"Terrorist bombers are not so successful in instilling fear and terrorizing Zamboangueños, particularly the business sector," said banker Teresa Sebastian, president of the Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sebastian said at a meeting of bankers and business groups here that the bombings had "little impact" on the city's economy.

"Shops were closed after the twin explosions, but the next day all the stores were open. There was mild apprehension but we were not totally paralyzed," she said.

Elenita Bayoneta, a sidewalk vendor selling barter goods along Mayor Climaco Ave., said: "At first I got scared when I saw bloodied people, when the ground shook and when I saw broken glass flying around. But when the situation became stable at around 4 p.m., we were back in business again."

Bayoneta said she had experienced a similar bomb attack in the same area in 1982 and had learned to cope.

"I cannot simply pack my wares and go home, this is the only way I and my five children can survive," she said.

Nurida Abdullah Perez, a barter trader, said she was also "used to bombings."

Senior Insp. Joseph Arguelles of the Philippine National Police's Firearms Explosives Security Agency and Guards Section, said majority of the city's 5,493 private security guards have gone through the Bomb Threat Awareness Seminar.

But three of the security guards at the Shop-o-rama department store that was bombed did not go through the training, it was learned. *Julie S. Alipala with a report from Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Indonesia assures RP of oil

THE PHILIPPINES has won a commitment from Indonesia for additional oil supplies in case a US war with Iraq squeezes the country's traditional crude sources from the Middle East.

The state-owned Philippine National Oil Co said over the weekend that Pertamina, Indonesia's state oil firm, had pledged the additional crude as a back-up in the event of disruptions to the Philippines' Middle East sources of oil.

"Indonesia through Baihaki Hakim, president of Pertamina, has committed to provide additional oil supplies to the country. This will provide us with a back-up contingency to ensure reliability of oil supply in the domestic market," said PNOC president and chief executive officer Thelmo Cunanan.

Cunanan, who negotiated the deal with Pertamina officials, did not provide details.

Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest oil and gas producer, pumping about 1.1 million barrels of crude a day.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the arrangement stemmed from discussions at the recent World Energy Forum in Japan and was an example of Asean members' commitments to regional oil security.

"We are pleased that, as part of the Asean commitments, we could depend on other member countries, particularly Indonesia, to provide us additional oil," Perez said.

Asean is an aggrupation of Southeast Asian nations that includes the Philippines and Indonesia.

Perez confirmed that the government is sending a high-level mission to Russia by the end of the month to negotiate a contingency supply arrangement.

Oil giant Saudi Aramco, which owns 40 percent of Petron Corp , one of the country's major refiners, has also indicated its commitment to provide additional crude if necessary, Perez said.

He added that the Philippines' oil supply remained steady.

Fears of a US attack on Iraq because of its non-compliance with United Nations resolutions on weapons inspections have sent oil prices rocketing in recent months.

Last Friday prices softened slightly, closing at $26.78. *Reuters*

Dante Ang: I thought I was doing country a favor

By Carlito Pablo

AND HE thought he was doing the country a huge favor.

The President's private publicist, Dante Ang, is dismayed at the criticism and negative reaction his acquisition of the thrift bank BankWise and the distribution rights to the Technogas appliance company have been getting.

He said he thought he would be eliciting praises for rescuing two "distressed companies."

Instead he has been suspected of fronting for influential persons or, worse, accumulating wealth far beyond his means.

A hurt Ang poured his heart out in an Oct. 18 letter sent to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, who had suggested in a radio interview last week that Ang's financial status should be looked into.

Ang says he and Magsaysay have since settled the matter.

In his letter, Ang quoted Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople as having once noted that "helping a troubled company get above the waters was a high act of patriotism."

"I had thought that by helping rescue the two companies, I would earn some praise instead of criticism," Ang said.

He pointed out that before he was invited by a group of investors to buy shares in BankWise, the bank was "losing money." Technogas meanwhile "had closed owing to labor troubles."

Ang said he agreed with Ople that "it is indeed a high act of patriotism when a citizen takes risks to help a troubled enterprise."

"That decision is a lucid expression of faith in the economy. My act helps generate jobs and creates income," he said.

"It is a vote for the future," he added.

Ang stressed that he did not buy BankWise but "bought into the bank through Seed Capital," the group that invited him to invest.

He said he made a down payment of P10 million from April to August 2002, with the balance of P40 million to be paid over a period of five years.

Ang also said that he has not kept his business activities, which he described as "honest and legal," secret from the public.

As presidential consultant for public relations, Ang said that he was "simply a private person who provides advice to the President."

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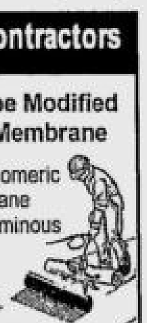

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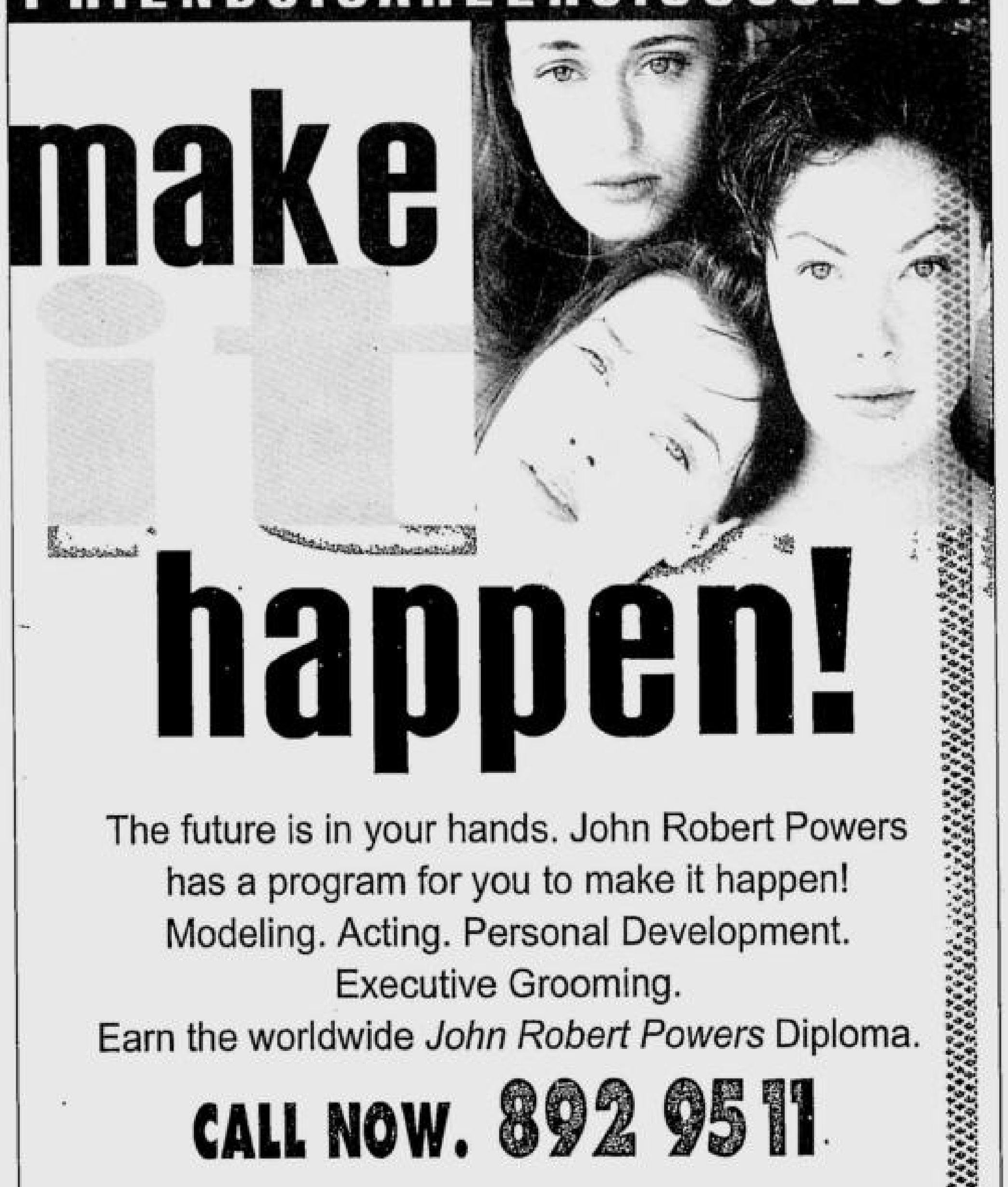

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Clean air a victim of war fears

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE HOUSE and Senate are coming up with a joint resolution seeking to suspend implementation of the Clean Air Act, which was set to take effect in January next year.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said yesterday the joint resolution was agreed upon by Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia during a recent National Security Council meeting where preparations for the threatened United States war on Iraq were discussed.

Gonzalez said oil firms in the Philippines were being required to have a 62-day buffer stock of crude oil as a result of the tense situation in the Middle East.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said that in order to comply with the new requirement, the oil firms should start importing their crude now.

But, Gonzalez said, the crude that the firms would be likely to import at this time would not meet the standards set in Republic Act 7489 or the Clean Air Act of 1999.

The act is very specific about the composition of oil products that should be available in the country starting Jan. 1—that they contain 35 percent aromatics and two percent benzene. At present, imported crude contains 45 percent aromatics and four percent benzene.

If the crude to be kept as a buffer stock fell short of standards, the solon said, the oil products to be sold at the start of next year would be illegal.

The suspension of the act's implementation was therefore imperative, Gonzalez said, affirming that he would co-author the House resolution.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, principal author of the Clean Air Act, said he had "serious reservations" about the proposed resolution. He said there should be an "adequate debate" on the matter.

Congress enacted the Clean Air Act after pollution levels throughout the country, particularly in Metro Manila, rose to dangerously high levels.

Today, Metro Manila ranks among the world's metropolitan areas with the dirtiest air.

New OWWA head named

A FORMER banker has been appointed to head the Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) following months of bickering between his predecessor, Wilhelm Soriano, and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Virgilio Angelo's appointment was signed on Friday although this has yet to be officially announced, sources said. He is scheduled to be briefed by Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson today. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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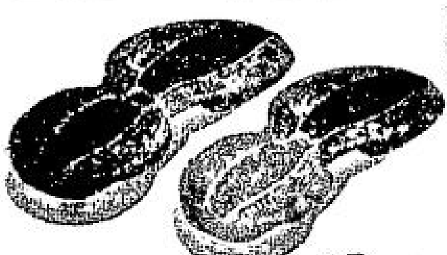

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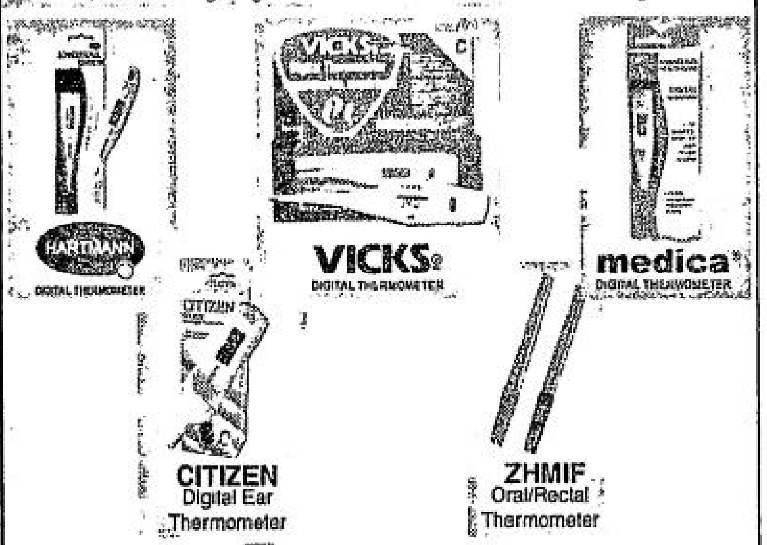
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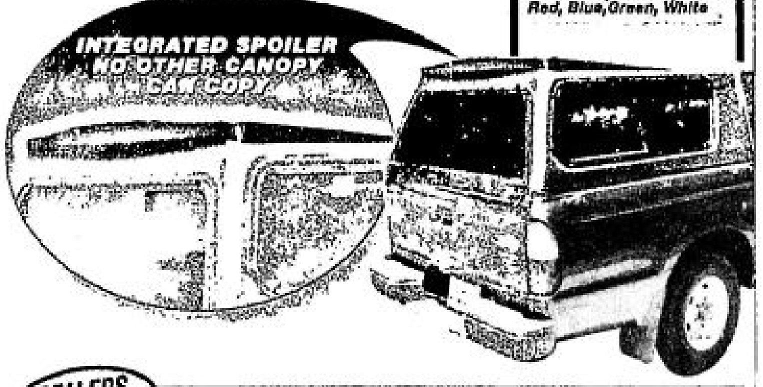
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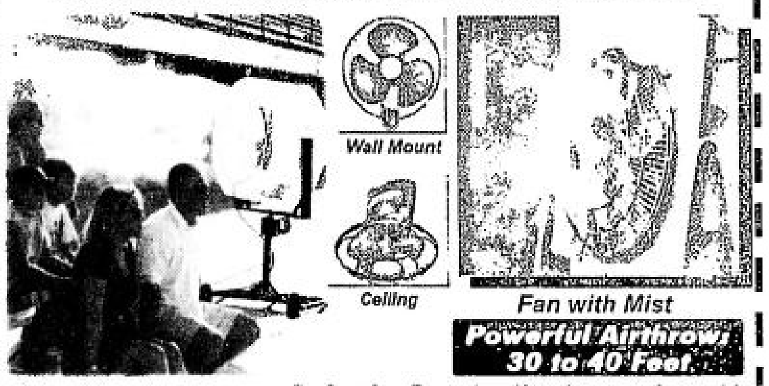
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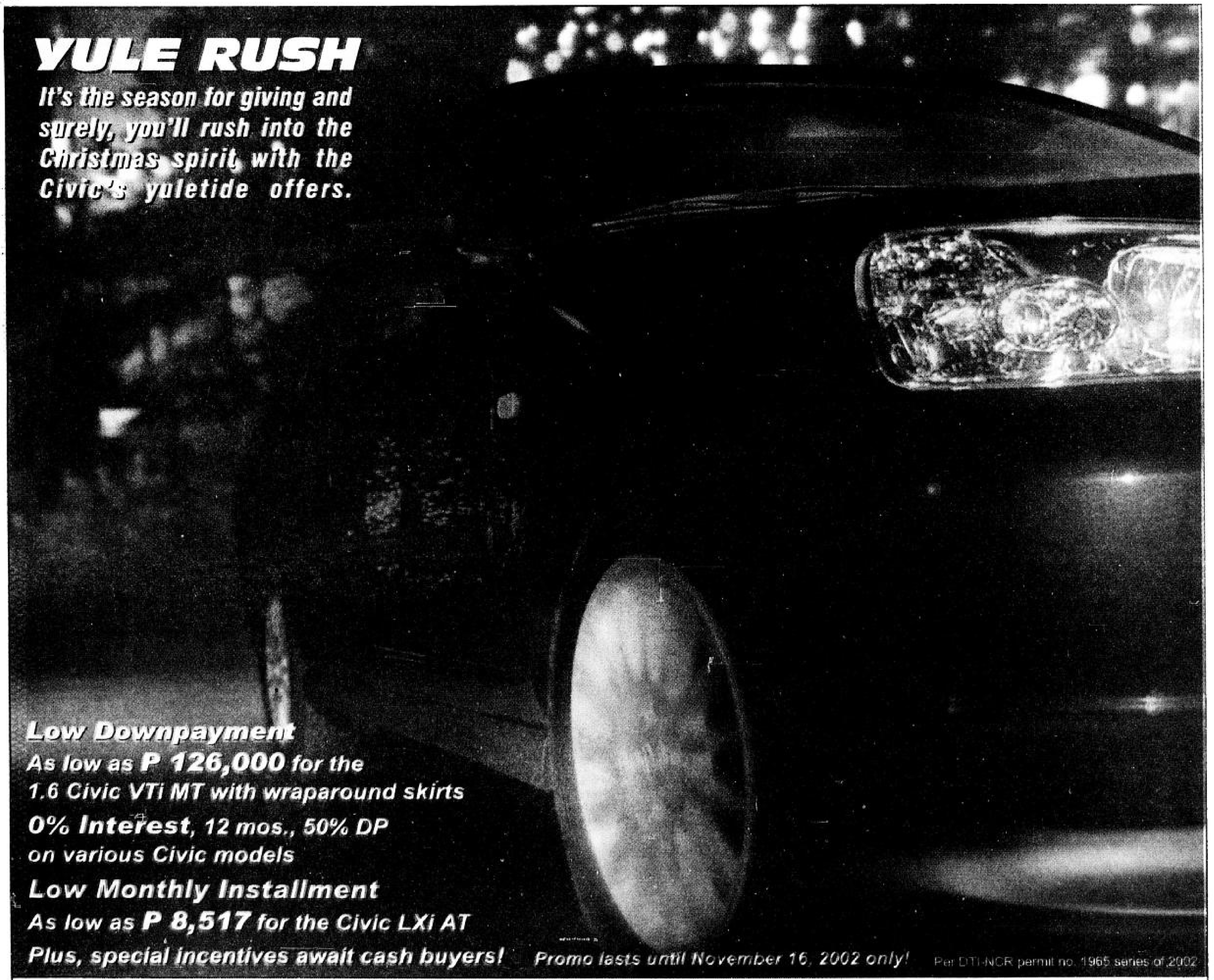
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HONDA

Corruption begins at home

From page A1

who want high grades for their children, to the extent of doing their kids' art or science projects for them.

But teachers also play a part in the culture of corruption. They accept projects obviously prepared by parents as the students' own work, and even issue high grades.

"What do we teach our children here? On one hand we always tell them to be honest, but we undermine such values by the actions we unconsciously do," she said in yesterday's weekly Sulo Hotel media forum.

"(We teach them) that it's all right to be dishonest *basta maabilidad ka* (as long as you get things done). It's the beginning of our training in corruption," David said.

She said the fight against corruption could start "in areas which ordinary citizens have control over," such as the home and the classroom.

New booklets

It is in this context, David said, that schoolchildren would be the target of a collaborative effort between the CSC and a publishing firm, one that teaches the importance of integrity and honesty in government service.

She said a series of booklets featuring the stories of "real-life heroes" in the public sector was being developed. These booklets, catering to young readers, will highlight the achievements and noble character of ordinary government employees who had been conferred the CSC Lingkod Bayan and Dangal ng Bayan Awards through the years, she added.

David said the project was actually the initiative of book publisher Rayvi Sunico, with the CSC helping him with the research and materials.

Citing more examples of how teachers unwittingly spawn corrupt practices among the young, David noted how students with access to computers often get away with "plagiarized" homework by lifting directly from the Internet.

"They take the easy way out, so to speak, yet the teachers even give them high grades for this instead of taking these students to task," she said.

"I have also heard of PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) meetings where the parents whisper about certain co-members known to have ill-gotten wealth, yet they still end up voting for these same people because they have the money to fund PTA projects," she noted.

The same message is conveyed by parents who lie about their declared income so that their children can qualify for scholarships, she said.

These practices could help explain, she said, why "through the generations, our attitude toward corruption tends to get more and more lenient."

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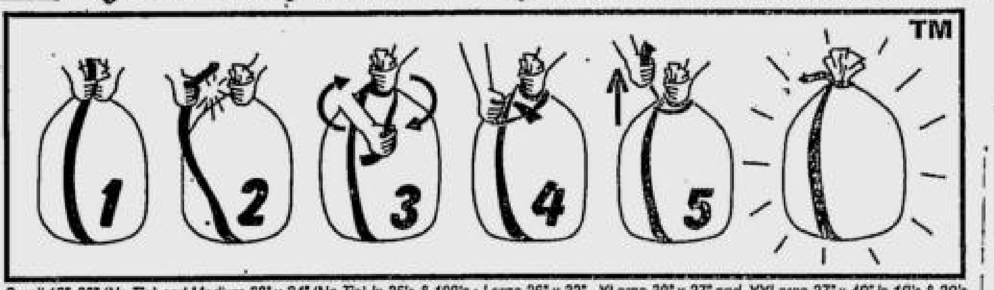

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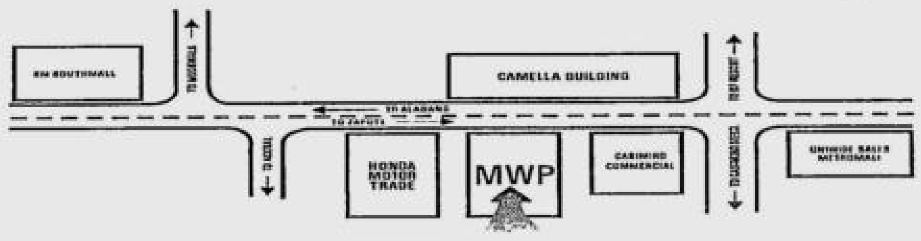

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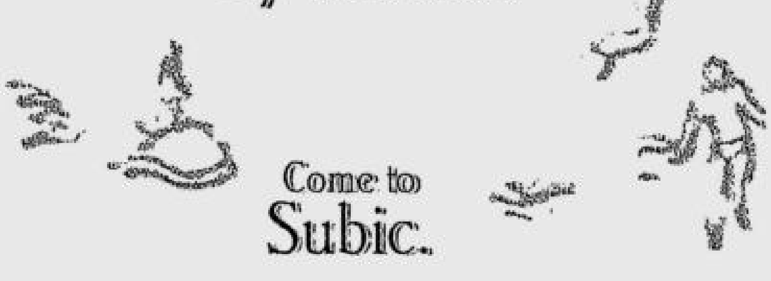

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Recall initiative to get Senate axe

By Rocky Nazareno

ALARMED by more than 90 current recall cases in various local government units, the Senate is preparing to scrap the preparatory recall assembly (PRA) as a mode of replacing local officials.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms, said a committee report recommending the discontinuance of the PRA was being circulated among senators for signing.

The report was drawn from separate bills filed by majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, minority leader Vicente Sotto III and Sen. Ramon Revilla.

"We have to make voters directly responsible for recall initiatives," Angara said.

In the current setup, only a handful of municipal, city and barangay officials can start recall proceedings.

Angara said the committee's proposal was for these proceedings to be initiated by at least 25 percent of the voters of the affected LGUs. He said the proposal also specified that the 25 percent should be based on the figures of the immediately preceding election, as verified by the Commission on Elections.

Contrary to the spirit of the Local Government Code, Angara said, the PRA was being used as "an instrument of political vendetta." He was hopeful that the draft report would be unanimously passed by the committee members and by Senate in plenary.

While they filed separate bills, Legarda, Revilla and Sotto all expressed alarm over the "dramatic" rise in the number of recall cases. They noted that most of these were filed by political leaders seeking to oust their rivals.

They said the noble intent of the PRA had been "lost," and that some politicians had been using the established procedures to get back at their opponents. Thus, they said, the PRA had become "a major source of destabilization" in local government units.

Several local officials earlier complained that the PRAs had set back their development plans and turned away potential investors.

Not true, say Reds of hit men in Metro

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines assailed the government yesterday for "concocting reports" the New People's Army has deployed hit men in Metro Manila to sow chaos.

"These malicious lies are all part of a grand scheme by the police and the military to create panic among the population and picture the revolutionary movement as a group of terrorist bombers, to justify the passage of the anti-terrorism bill now pending in Congress," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in response to an e-mail query.

Rosal added: "But these psy-war tactics will boomerang on them."

Rosal said it was not the practice of the NPA to harm innocent civilians.

He pointed to the police and the military as those who might be behind the rash of recent bombings in Metro Manila.

"Their dirty tricks departments are at it again, creating a phantom of fear for the public," he said.

Rosal also said the NPA does not intend to mix it up with US soldiers who are in the country for the joint "Talon Vision 02" military exercise with Filipino troops.

"We will not attack unless the American soldiers attack us first. The NPA will not interfere with those so-called war games," he said.

But Rosal made it clear that should US troops wander into NPA territory, "the local NPA unit has the option to consider the correct response according to the situation."

Rosal also warned that the NPA would react to threats to civilians in the perimeter of the war games.

"If civilian properties like houses, farms and the like are destroyed in the course of bombing exercises, well, that's a different matter. The local guerilla unit would have to protect the interests of the masses," he said.

Some 600 US Marines have arrived for the two-week military exercise with about 400 Filipino soldiers.

The war games go on until Oct. 26 at the Marine base in Ternate, Cavite; Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija; Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac, and the former US air base at Clark Field, Pampanga. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 OFWs cleared

THE THREE overseas Filipino workers arrested in Saudi Arabia in connection with a car bomb explosion in Riyadh in September have been cleared by police there, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Quoting reports from the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, the DFA said the three Filipinos were released following interrogation.

The Filipinos were working for Crypto AG, a business based in Riyadh. The DFA withheld their identities to not unduly alarm their relatives in the Philippines. *Norman Bordadora*

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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The change in policy by the Government to slow down the tariff cuts, particularly on petrochemicals, has made the task of the Tariff Commission and the TRM Committee more difficult and complex.

This change in policy will have to be made with the purpose of balancing the interest of the industry, the labor sector, the consumers, as well as, our commitment under the AFTA-CEPT Agreement.

We urgently call on Government to present to the downstream industries and end-product manufacturers who will be most affected by the tariff distortions the viability of the upstream naphtha cracker plant project given the following considerations:

1. An integrated petrochemical complex needs a naphtha cracker plant to make it viable.
2. Worldwide, the economic-sized cracker plant has a minimum capacity of one million metric tons of ethylene.
3. The Philippines does not have enough refining capacity to produce naphtha and importing the shortfall from the international market does not make it competitive.
4. Locations of Philippine midstream plants are not concentrated in one area, making transportation costs from one point to the other prohibitive especially for ethylene. The Batangas plant, the one closest to the market, is the only one producing Polyethylene (PE) and Polypropylene (PP) with a combined capacity of 355,000 metric tons. Two plants producing PE and PP separately with a combined capacity of 435,000 metric tons are located in Bataan. The biggest plant in Bataan is closed.

If the Government can show us the viability of the Project, **we are submitting our proposed win-win solution to the conflict between the upstream, midstream (petrochemical manufacturers), downstream industries, and end-product manufacturers as follows:**

1. For the government to charge to the naphtha project the interest expense to be incurred by the midstream petrochem plants, starting only on January 2, 2003, when the tariff on polymers is reduced to 5% in accordance with the CEPT Tariff Schedule.
2. Other related costs and losses of the midstream petrochemical plants should be negotiated by Government in order to establish what should be charged to the naphtha project.
3. Proceed with the reduction of tariff on petrochemicals to 5% on January 2, 2003, as required by the ASEAN Common Effective Preferential Tariff Agreement.
4. When the naphtha cracker plant becomes operational three years from now or on January 1, 2006, tariff protection will be granted for two years for Government to recover the losses charged under items 1 and 2 above to the naphtha project by the midstream industries.
5. The upstream, midstream and downstream industries and end-product manufacturers must agree now on what tariff rate would eliminate the tariff distortions at all levels.

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How to spot an alarmist

EDITORIAL

YESTERDAY, we published "How to spot a bomb," a list of tips culled from the Philippine National Police and the US National Security Institute on detecting possible bombs and minimizing the damage they may cause. Today, we dedicate our attention to the detection of bomb-scare artists and national-security alarmists—instant counter-terrorism experts like Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, who will file a resolution in Congress today seeking emergency powers for the President.

As even a cursory examination of Gonzalez's tactics will show, the preferred weapon of such alarmists is the misuse of the resources of rhetoric. A closer inspection will reveal familiar patterns of language abuse.

An alarmist like Gonzalez begins by assuming as fact something that still needs to be proven. "(The President) should be given ample powers now because it is very clear that we have a national emergency situation," he told the INQUIRER on Saturday. That use of "very clear" (an assertion, instead of an argument) is a giveaway. In point of fact, the government does not yet know whether the "situation"—the bombing of a Quezon City bus last Friday, which followed on the heels of the bombing of two shopping centers in Zamboanga City last Thursday—has risen to the level of a national emergency. President Macapagal-Arroyo and her top law enforcement and national security officials have in fact said the opposite: the incidents are troubling, but they do not a crisis make.

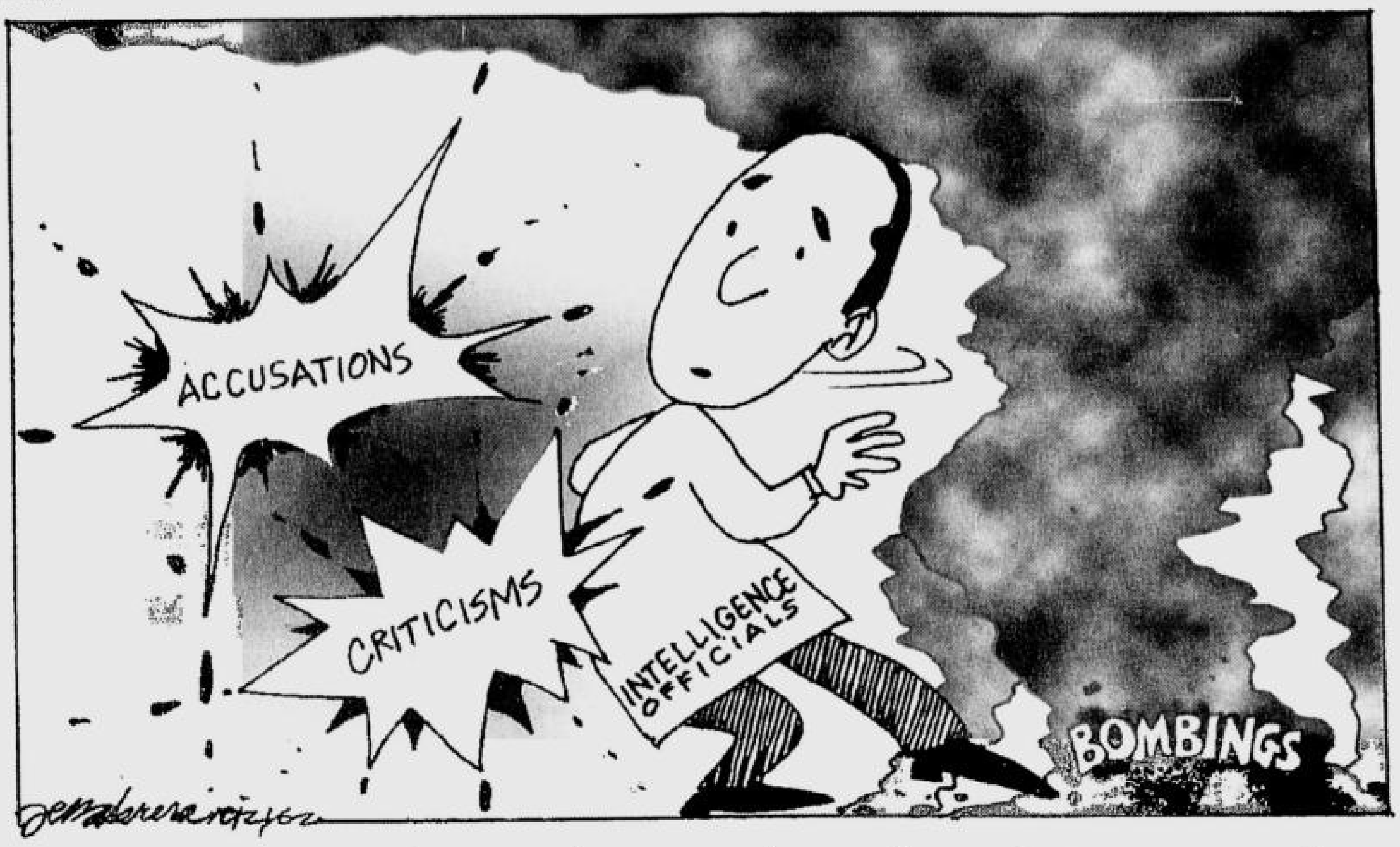
An alarmist like Gonzalez paints with broad brushstrokes, but using a palette limited to black and white. "How can you control the bombing?" he asked the other day, striking the classic, defeatist pose that alarmists find becoming. "The peso has plunged, you cannot go to the malls, you cannot ride the bus." This declaration must have come as a surprise to the millions of Filipinos who continued to use public utility vehicles and visit the country's malls over the weekend. To be sure, the number of commuters and mall-goers must have gone down, but for the great majority of Filipinos, life went on as usual. They simply did the sensible thing: waited in security lines patiently and opened their bags and car trunks for inspection.

An alarmist like Gonzalez will suggest an immediate course of action, but he will not necessarily argue for it. He may simply use the old trick called the false dichotomy: He will say there are only two choices, and his suggestion is the lesser of two evils. "It's a question of which is better—giving the President emergency powers or the President declaring martial law," Gonzalez said. "I will go for the benign approach." Of course. We would, too—if there were only two options available. But how can this be the case? The President has sufficient executive powers, and over 200,000 men in uniform to carry them out.

An alarmist like Gonzalez will often attempt to co-opt those opposed to or skeptical about his idea by phrasing their reaction in more favorable terms. Saying he had raised the need for emergency powers in the last two meetings of the National Security Council, Gonzalez characterized the President's response as follows: that she had taken note of it but was careful not to be misconstrued as initiating the proposal. Listening to the President's own comments at a briefing yesterday, we understand why. She does not agree with him. "A few troublemakers with limited capabilities are trying to bully 80 million Filipinos into living in fear and terror in their own homes and neighborhoods," the President said. "They are being unwittingly aided by rumormongers and by the hysterical and those easily panicked among us."

Lastly, an alarmist like Gonzalez often displays a skewed sense of reality, usually betrayed through a bizarre or macabre sense of humor. In his interview, Gonzalez said emergency powers were needed so that the opposition could not accuse the President of "enjoying plenty of sex in the face of lawless violence." (With allies like these, who needs political enemies?)

Gonzalez may find his pseudo-argument funny, but no one is laughing.



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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

NOW that the President's personal publicist, Dante Ang, has admitted having bought into and being chair of Bankwise, a small thrift bank, which foreign retirees have accused of illegally transferring their bank deposits to another account, the cat is out of the bag and I don't have to name him. For it was him I was referring to as the "chair of that Makati thrift bank who is a crony of President Macapagal-Arroyo." Prama Foundation, the retirees' association, had complained to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that Bankwise had transferred monies from three of its bank accounts without authorization and documentation, to the account of a group that has controlling shares in the bank and which Ang admitted having helped to raise capital with which to buy the troubled bank. (Prama has a conflict with the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA) over the monies of the retirees.)

Out of the blue, without any previous news story, Ang suddenly sent press releases to the media announcing that he has bought controlling interest and is chair of Bankwise. The purchase was made six months ago but Ang apparently kept it secret in violation of the rules of the Monetary Board. Asked why, Ang's reply was a curt, "It was an oversight."

So why did Ang suddenly issue a press release last Wednesday announcing his bank acquisition? Because he knew that this fact was about to explode in the media the next day. He must be trying to preempt that, said a Bangko Sentral official. It was less damaging for him to be the one to admit it than to be exposed in an investigative newspaper story.

I don't necessarily buy his conclusion but this Bangko Sentral official said that the first part of the two-part column (As I See It, 10/16-17/02) already exposed that Prama could not withdraw its bank deposits. And that the column would be continued the next day. He knew that the name of the bank and his chairmanship of it may be exposed the next day, so he tried to beat you to the draw, the official reasoned out. (Ang did not quite make it; the press release and the column came out on the same day.) "Is that an indication of guilt or not?" he asked.

I am not that presumptuous. I would rather ascribe it to coincidence and give Ang the benefit of the doubt that his failure to report the purchase of the bank was "an oversight." Ang is a very busy man. He is attending to several businesses. As we can see, he is busily climbing up the business ladder, reminiscent of the rapid climb in business of Kokoy Romualdez during the Marcos regime. So Ang should be forgiven for "oversights" now and then. Besides, he is busy saving the Philippines by personally directing the publicity for President Macapagal which, as Ang likes to point out, he is "doing for free." Rather than criticize Ang for some little "oversight," we should praise him for his patriotism and self-sacrifice, serving the President—and therefore the nation, for free when such service would probably cost a lot of money otherwise.

But back to Ang's bank. How can a bank transfer deposits to another account without authorization and documentation? But that is exactly what happened to P7,659,289 and US$473,567 of the foreign retirees' money.

The president of the retirees' association, Ramon Collado, who is now under detention in Bicutan and scheduled for deportation upon orders of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, a PLRA director, wrote a letter of complaint to Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes.

The bank records enclosed with the letter, showed that from March to June this year, the bank deducted 16 cash advances made by Jun Marcelo of the PLRA from one of Prama's accounts, all totaling P2,420,000. Another statement showed that four cash advances totaling P735,891 were deducted to pay for airline tickets for somebody who is in no way connected with Prama.

"We are in no way connected with the gentleman's ticket loans, why would these accounts be deducted from our account?" Collado asked in his letter.

"Last 25 May 2001, the Bank transferred our money from the Peso and Dollar savings accounts to the (account) of Seed Capital without our authorization or any documentation," the letter said.

Last Friday, a group of foreign retirees filed before the National Bureau of Investigation a complaint for fraud, estafa and threats against Bankwise chair Ang, president Lazaro Madara, director Vicente Campa, executive vice president Javier Quintos and two other individuals not affiliated with the bank.

What is happening here? As far as we can gather, the deposits of the retirees were transferred to the account of Seed Capital, the group that now controls 60 percent of Bankwise. Seed Capital is controlled by Roberto Guevara who, by Ang's own admission, had asked him, Ang, to help raise P250 million to buy a 60-percent stake in Bankwise.

Bankwise then persuaded Prama to transfer some of its deposits to Bankwise in return for which, Ang, with his reputed influence in the government as the President's personal publicist, will help the retirees resolve their conflict with the PLRA. Prama was told to invest in Seed Capital.

Bankwise's predecessor, Bank Dharmala, an Indonesian firm, has been in trouble before for Dosri loans—or loans given to directors, officers, shareholders or related interests of the bank, which should not exceed 20 percent of the bank's unimpaired capital.

Collado's letter to the Bangko Sentral said that "Roberto Guevarra, chairman of Seed Capital has a clean loan amounting to P67,560,000 and other loans and discounts (Dosri) of P12,570,000 and P4,470,000 in CK rediscounting" from the bank.

Could it be that the money of Seed Capital is still not enough for the required capital infusion so that the deposits of Prama were transferred to its account? Only an investigation will clarify that.

Uniting against terror

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

ONE thing we know is that we do not know. We do not know, at least as of yet, who threw the couple of bombs in Zamboanga that killed seven people and wounded 152 others. We do not know who planted the bomb in the bus en route to Novaliches that killed three people and wounded 22 others.

The military of course has automatically blamed the Abu Sayyaf for the Zamboanga atrocity. It is possible. But that raises more questions than puts them to rest.

To begin with, how is it possible that a small band of kidnappers that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Angelo Reyes and Roilo Golez have been happily reporting over the past months as being on the run can continue to sow terror among the populace? How is it possible that a small band of kidnappers whose leaders have been caught or killed—Abu Sabaya has been reported to be literally sleeping with the fishes, having presumably sunk to the bottom of the sea—can continue to materialize in strange places to wreak havoc there?

How is it possible that a small band of kidnappers operating in a small island that has been invaded by hordes of American Marines and Special Forces, that has been the object of enviable munificence—Wahab Akbar, the ex MNLF rebel and very current governor got close to a billion pesos from the national government to build a circumferential road in the island—that has been trampled upon by hundreds of Filipino soldiers for half a year now can continue to prevent the just from sleeping the sleep of the just?

Indeed, how is it possible that the same group has become even more powerful, like a hydra that keeps multiplying every time its head is cut off? For crying out loud, Zamboanga is where the headquarters of the dreaded Southern Command is, bastion of national defense, refuge of seasoned veterans. It is where Clara Lobregat, who is to the Abu Sayyaf what Richard Gordon was to anti-bases protesters when a US naval base still stood on Subic, lives and rules. It is the home of anti-Muslim vigilantes and paramilitary elements who will not allow anyone wearing Abu-Sabaya-type Ray Ban sunglasses to get near their women and children. How can a criminal group that is desperate, in fear for its life, and just about breathed its last, be able to sneak in and out of the belly of the beast? There's something very wrong with the picture.

There are other explanations of course, and not very pleasant ones. One of them, as an earlier bus bombing led police to suspect, is that extortion groups may be behind the atrocities. Someone then called up the bus owner afterward and said that was the price for not paying several million pesos for protection. This country is going to the dogs, peace and order wise, GMA's turning Malacañang into Precinto Uno notwithstanding.

Yet another explanation, offered by the Indonesian Islamic cleric who is being blamed for the Bali bombing, is that there is one group that has more resources, more organization, and more track record for carrying out things like this than al-Qaida. That is the CIA. I don't know why anyone should routinely dismiss it, any more than anyone should routinely dismiss the Abu Sayyaf as suspect.

GMA says in the wake of all this that we should unite against terror. I agree 100 percent. I agree that we should take precautions, that we should be vigilant, that we should combat terrorism whenever and wherever it rears its head. Individually as citizens and collectively as a nation.

I do *not* agree that that should mean we should bring in more American troops or offer this country as staging ground for George Bush's impending war in the Middle East. That is stupid. The justification for Balikatan was that it would help wipe out the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups by a combination of force, money and propaganda. So far, all it has done—if the military is right that the Abu Sayyaf is behind the bombings—is make them grow. The all-out support for Bush's war on the other hand should make us ask one all-important question: If Filipinos can be targeted by terrorists right at the doorstep of the Southcom, why can't they be targeted by terrorists where they are at their mercy? We have three million OFWs, most of them working in the very lands that are about to feel the effects of the conflagration contemplated by Bush. We want them to be ducks in a shooting gallery?

I do *not* agree that that should mean we must embrace the path of war even more. We never had this problem during Fidel Ramos' time, when a peace process was in place. The bombings began only with Erap, after he unleashed a war of attrition against Muslim Mindanao to solve what was essentially a peace and order problem. If anything, we must cling to the path of peace even more.

I do *not* agree that that should mean suspending human rights, letting loose vigilantes, and putting the generals and their like-minded friends—who have so obviously been part of the disease rather than the cure—in charge of our future. I do not agree that that should mean giving in to paranoia, to prejudice, to emptying the mind of all thought in the name of fighting terrorism.

By all means let us unite to fight terrorism. But let us do so by asking where terrorism is coming from, and why. Let us do so by fighting terrorism not with more terrorism, by fighting injustice not with more injustice, by fighting the threats to freedom and democracy with more threats to freedom and democracy. Let us do so not by defending life with the way of death but by defending life with the way of life.

One thing we do know: The greatest acts of courage are not physical, they are moral. The real medals of honor do not belong to those who fight in war. They belong to those who struggle for peace.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

'Midnight madness' was sheer madness

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE POLICE authorities are exhorting the people to stay away from crowded places such as the malls, cinemas and big restaurants, but there they were, the big malls on Edsa put up a three-day "Midnight Madness" sale starting last Friday night, just when a bus was being bombed in the metropolis. In typical *"bahala na"* attitude, the people totally defied the police warnings and trooped to the malls in search of the fabulous bargains. But putting up a "Midnight Madness" at this time, when the metropolis is trying to cope with the bus bombing and various terrorist threats, and after the bombings in two malls in Zamboanga City and in the crowded disco in Bali, is sheer madness. The mall owners fully realize from past experience that people will always flock to the "Midnight Madness" sale. Thus, putting it up at this time shows the business enterprises' utter insensitivity and irresponsibility—they are obviously only thinking of the money they will make, never mind if they are tempting the fates. Messrs. John Gokongwei and Henry Sy, *dapat makisama kayo* and be part of the solution, not the problem.

* * *

The fight against terrorism ought to involve all of us citizens and this is one time when politics ought to take a back seat. President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration is on the right track in involving the Metro Manila mayors as the frontliners in the war against terrorism and to protect their turfs. In tapping the Metro Manila mayors, the President made the allusion to former New York City Mayor Rudolf Guiliani, who held that embattled city together at the height of the terrorist attacks of September 2001 and the recovery beyond; for his inspiring courage and leadership Guiliani bested President Bush for the Time Person of the Year award last year.

Nobody ought to know the cities and the resources and personnel to mobilize better than the local executives. For instance, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte immediately mobilized the leaders of Quezon City's 140 barangays, even as he assured the numerous Muslim communities there that there won't be unnecessary raids. In fact, he ought to involve the Muslim leaders versus terrorism. Arming the barangay officials should be avoided as this could lead to abuses, but they could be most useful in looking out for strangers, unattended packages and strange movements in their localities. The barangay people ought to be put on 24-hour call from citizens.

* * *

Also very sensible is the order of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to tighten security in the metropolis' buses and rail transits. He has ordered the bus companies and MRT and LRT people to inspect the bags of every passenger, but the problem seems to be that the bus companies are complaining that they have no extra personnel to handle this job. But it's a job that has to be done, as our past experience shows that the buses and city trains are the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and the ordinary citizens get the brunt of it. Fernando and the bus companies have to get together on this problem, even if the MMDA has to provide the security personnel. He could provide them with those hand-held metal body-sweepers, which are a big help.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit also has this excellent order to the hospitals in the metropolis to each prepare 50 beds for emergency hospitalizations. This is localizing critical medical aid.

* * *

This falls under the "Whatever happened" department. I was away for less than two weeks and when I left, Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez was very much in the saddle. But by the time I got back I found out that he was already replaced by Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee. The sad thing is that apparently Valdez only learned the news after the media began calling him up to verify. Seems like another lousy handling of an official's exit by the executive branch. Why does this happen like a refrain?

Reading the back issues, I learned that GMA's order was for Valdez to switch places with Teehankee, which means lateral transfer; but why is he being made to submit a resignation letter first by the Department of Justice? Is this so that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez can tell the Palace that Valdez after all doesn't want to join the DOJ? I understand that he has refused to write that letter. This is a lamentable way to treat the affable former law dean who was deeply involved in the Senate impeachment trial as a private prosecutor. There's talk that he's being eased out because he recently ruled as GCC that the BOT contract of the government with Piatco is valid, even though he conceded that some provisions ought to be renegotiated. Can it be that such ruling can be hazardous to one's political health?

* * *

Political Tidbits:

- Some cronies and buddies of former President Estrada who made a killing during his time are actively pushing the candidacy of actor Fernando Poe Jr. They are going around the country organizing and working, even though FPJ himself remains hesitant about a candidacy. The plan is to draft Sen. Juan Flavier as FPJ's running-mate, *para patok na patok sa masa*. Obviously the Estrada camp realizes that the only way to get him off the hook is to get FPJ elected. I hope Flavier doesn't get enticed by it though.
- The Palace recently floated the idea of getting Bayani Fernando to run with GMA in 2004. The Palace might be curious to know that two weeks ago, at the concert of the Vienna Boys' Choir at the Philamlife Auditorium in Manila, BF's presence was publicly recognized prior to the show. Whereupon the audience clapped so long and hard for him, with some even standing up for an ovation, that BF became visibly embarrassed. An observer who related this story to me opined that to the A and B crowd there, BF has become a symbol of upholding the rule of law. But does he connect to the *masa*?

The return of the Tasaday

Kris-Crossing Mindanao

Antonio J. Montalvan II

IT is a controversy that shall forever be equated with Ferdinand Marcos.

Thirty years ago, newspapers and magazines around the world were greeted with the astounding news that a band of Stone Age people called the Tasaday had been discovered deep in the South Cotabato rain forests.

The reports captured enormous international attention. It became a cover story in the National Geographic Magazine in August 1972 and a documentary by the National Geographic Society was repeatedly shown on television screens across the world. Tasaday fame spread with the 1975 book "The Gentle Tasaday: A Stone Age People in the Philippine Rain Forest," by American writer John Nance.

Many still recall the Spanish *mestizo* face that became closely acquainted with the Tasaday, that of Manuel "Manda" Elizalde Jr. whom Marcos appointed to head the Presidential Assistance on National Minorities-Panamin. Elizalde has since died in 1997, but the Tasaday issue has not gone to rest. What happened?

In March 1972, Elizalde set up base camp near the mouth of the Tasaday cave with a group of nine scientists whom he personally chose. In the following months, a horde of celebrities, politicians, movie stars, journalists and filmmakers swarmed all over Tasaday land, flown in via Elizalde's helicopters. Independent scientists and anthropologists were, however, forbidden access.

Then on Dec. 16, 1972, Elizalde closed camp and all access to the Tasaday was strictly forbidden. Marcos issued orders to imprison any scientist that transgressed his orders. With that diktat, a mantle of silence fell over the Tasaday for 14 years.

The issue was only resurrected just a month after the sensational disgrace of the Marcoses in 1986, when an article appeared reporting the 1971 Tasaday "discovery" to be a hoax. Swiss journalist Oswald Iten alleged that the Tasaday were only a concoction of Elizalde, that they were not in fact an isolated Stone Age people.

The stories of deceit that came out can fill the pages of a scriptwriter's conspiracy thriller. It was alleged that Elizalde asked the Tasaday to switch from cloth to leaves when photographers came. And the stone axes were said to be fake, if only to impress visiting journalists. That they were a cave-dwelling forest foraging people whose diet was wild food was disputed when it was alleged that Elizalde's staff would secretly smuggle them rice after dark. Worst, the Tasaday were merely T'boli who were made to pose as such.

The nefarious scenario of these reports opened a Pandora's box of international debate among anthropologists, eliciting two international conferences on the question. The first was an international symposium held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia in 1988 where several prominent anthropologists argued that the Tasaday story was a hoax perpetrated to enhance the political fortunes of Elizalde. Other social scientists defended the Tasaday.

That same year, the American Anthropological Association organized a blue ribbon committee to investigate the issue. This resulted in another international symposium held in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 16, 1989 where 18 distinguished speakers presented papers. These were eventually published by the AAA in "The Tasaday Controversy: Assessing the Evidence."

Among those who sat in the Zagreb conference was a scholar of Philippine historical linguistics. Dr. Lawrence A. Reid had lived for some time in the country studying the language of the Bontok and the Northern Luzon Negrito. Wanting to shed light on the controversy, Reid spent a total of 10 months among the Tasaday between 1993 and 1996.

Here I give way to Lawrie Reid's synopsis of his findings: "I have come to the conclusion that the Tasaday probably were as isolated as they claim, that they were indeed unfamiliar with agriculture, that their language was a different dialect from that spoken by the closest neighboring group, and that there was no hoax perpetrated by the original group that reported their existence. The length of isolation however was probably in the range of 5-10 generations, not in the thousands of years."

Now a book has been commissioned by one of the leading publishing houses in the United States and will appear in May next year. It is written by American award-winning writer Robin Hemley who has several honors to his name, among them the 1998 Independent Publisher's Book Award, the Nelson Algren Award from the Chicago Tribune and the Governor's State Award from Washington State.

Hemley arrived at his conclusion after an objective, independent review of all the evidence regarding the Tasaday. Interviewing both sides of the controversy and having visited the Tasaday twice himself, Hemley concludes that the Tasaday are a genuine ethnolinguistic group. And here is the toast of Hemley's story, that the hoax line was perpetrated only to discredit the Tasaday so that logging interests could gain access to their forest site. Lawrie Reid tells me Hemley's book promises to be "an amazing story of startling intrigue and deception."

With bombs exploding around some Mindanao cities, why should we be interested in the Tasaday issue? Because giving due concern to the weakest members of society should be part of our noble everyday duties. Like Marcos during his time, Mindanao simply remains a dessert plate for our national politicians.

It is a controversy that shall forever be equated with Ferdinand Marcos.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

America the vulnerable, and an army of amoks

Commentary

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EMPIRES in human history have fallen from the zenith of power when their invincibility is taken for granted by everyone but the mortal enemies that seek to destroy it. This fatal blindness sometimes afflicts those who benefit the most from the very dispensation they prosper in but fail to defend. A demise of startling swiftness can be precipitated by some unexpected event that reveals unseen vulnerability to a determined foe.

This Ozymandian truth is lost on too many people today. Some think America is too powerful to be destroyed and are indifferent to the dangers. Others, out of an ideological resentment, say she is guilty of warmongering when she forcefully defends her citizens and interests. Many would not mourn the epic tragedy if she were destroyed, except for the fact that their own societies and circumstances would be unrecognizably horrible as a result. America is not so strong as to be indestructible, nor so weak as to go quietly without a fuss. But humanity has a huge stake in the survival of the ideals she stands for and the inclusive, democratic and prosperous society she strives for.

The opportunity is not lost on Osama bin Laden. His weird statements are often ridiculed, but close inspection reveals a profound understanding of Islamic history and its effective use as propaganda.

Shortly after the invasion of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, Bin Laden said that the British and the Americans, "have divided the entire world into two regions, one of faith where there is no hypocrisy, and another of infidelity, from which we hope God will protect us...Hypocrisy stands behind the leader of global idolatry, behind the Hubal of the age, namely America and its supporters."

These statements are not intended for us. The drama of Sept. 11 was performed to touch the *umma*, the universal Islamic community, Bin Laden's real audience. There, they resonate with the power of 3,000 immolated human lives and a superpower shocked and humiliated. The ghoulish rejoicing of Egyptian and Saudi intellectuals who relished the tragedy of Sept. 11, are rooted in obscure historical events long forgotten in the West but revered by fundamentalist Islam. He has cynically used terror to unite the fundamentalist church militant of Islam by provoking the United States to violence and force. He is engaged in no less than a world war to reestablish the past glories, first achieved by the Prophet Muhammad over 14 centuries ago, which were military, political and religious, in that order.

When Muhammad first began preaching Islamic monotheism to the disunited Arab tribes of Mecca in the seventh century, he attacked the idolatry that was represented by a stone god named "Hubal" which he believed desecrated pure belief in Allah. But the Meccan oligarchy, which was allied with two superpowers, the Persian Empire and the Byzantine remains of Rome, persecuted the young prophet and his followers, who retreated to the city-state of Medina. After defeating the Munafiqun—the Hypocrites of Medina, Muhammad and his armies would go on to conquer not only Mecca, but the world east to India, west to the Atlantic coast of Europe and Africa, south to Indonesia and north to central Eurasia. Islam, as superpower, would last for a thousand years until the Muslim caliphates in Cairo, Baghdad, Cordoba and Istanbul were successively destroyed by Christendom's crusaders.

Bin Laden casts America's secular democracy and the Jewish state in the role of Hubal idolatry and Byzantine dominion. The hypocrites are US allies and clients in the Middle East, mainly the corrupt and repressive regimes in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He sees himself as the reincarnation of Muhammad the mujahedin, and al-Qaida is the Salafiyya, the prophet's loyal companions. Organizationally, al-Qaida is basically the terror network built by Bin Laden the billionaire, merged with the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, which brazenly assassinated the peace-making Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat. Emotionally, they appeal to the vast army of the poor and oppressed in the Islamic world, the *umma*, to and once again rise up and cleanse the world of infidels and hypocrites.

They are embarked on a great reenactment of the past. Sept. 11 was just the curtain rising on a fearful new era of jihad. Bali's grief proves that a mass movement of amoks has been loosed on humanity with the blind fervor of a stampede into Paradise, trained in Afghanistan and deployed everywhere, now including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. It is a global guerrilla war whose end-game I cannot bear to predict for it is war without end. The terrorist amoks are heedless of life itself, and value reason, justice, diplomacy, even less. Until one side should be utterly destroyed and a new dark age descend, hideous acts of wanton mass murder will follow in succession, rationalized fallaciously by the moral relativism of the ideological resenters of America and secularism.

Like it or not and blame whom you will, but the deadly and unavoidable fact is that the Philippines and Filipinos are real targets of this war. The fat is in the fire, and we are facing a titanic clash between two great fundamentalisms in the world: militant Islam which wants Islamic theocracy at any cost, and militant America, with its secular democracy and global capitalism. Choose sides we must, sooner or later, though many still tarry in the comfort zone of clucking neutrality and paralytic fence-sitting.

* * *

Theologian Dr. Dennis T. Gonzales and alumni of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven invite all to a symposium on religious fundamentalism from a Catholic perspective at the De La Salle University on Oct. 25 and 26. For more info, call 631-0021 or e-mail fonske@yahoogroups.com.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Picture of anguish

Readers' Advocate

Raul J. Palabrica

WITH ALL the bombings and mayhem happening around us, it is reasonable to expect the readers to be immune from photos that show death and suffering. Right?

Wrong. Many readers were outraged when they recently saw those kinds of pictures in the INQUIRER. They did not hesitate to show their dismay.

Last Oct. 12, the INQUIRER published the photo of a woman and her 10-year-old child who were sprawled in the street after a bomb exploded in a crowded bus terminal in Kidapawan City. The unidentified mother was partially undressed, with her stomach and underwear in full view. Beside her was the body of her son who was naked from the chest down.

The photo caption read: "Out of the depths, a woman herself wounded in the bombing, cries out in anguish as she lies beside the lifeless body of her 10-year-old son."

The following day, Sunday, a time when most people try to forget the worries of the world, the cell phones of some editors were filled with text messages from readers protesting the publication of the photo. My e-mail box got its share of biting comments from the readers. They all felt the picture was done in bad taste.

The letter of Rene Riel of Makati City reflects the sentiments of these readers. He wrote: "I am saddened and angered to see your front page today showing a mother and her dead son as victims of the latest bombing incident in Mindanao. I am angry to see how helpless from such barbaric acts our innocent civilians have become while striving to live peacefully.

"I am more saddened to see a mother crying, almost naked, watching her son die. There is no doubt that my feelings were fueled by your publication of the victims' fate. I wonder how insensitive your editors can be when they print pictures like those.

"Last 9/11, the world witnessed the Twin Towers collapse, but I did not see vivid pictures of victims' arms or severed fingers. I am not a priest so I cannot give sermons but I understand the principle 'individual freedom should be balanced with responsibility.'

"You cannot just print everything without taking into consideration their effect on others. Your newspaper may not support terrorism but what you published was 'one-centavo' short of promoting it."

Editors' reaction

The propriety of coming out with that photo was on top of the agenda in last week's editorial assessment meeting of the INQUIRER. The discussion was spirited. The divergence in views was unmistakable. Some editors who, in the past, found nothing wrong with publishing photos of that nature had a change of heart this time.

Three opinions emerged from the exchange of ideas. A group of editors agreed with the publication of the photo. They said that was the best way to inform the readers of the gravity of the situation. The shock effect is needed to prod the government into doing everything possible to prevent a repeat of the incident.

This opinion jibes with the editor in chief's position that the newspaper may have to offend the readers' sensibilities once in a while to bring into focus the horrors that we are forced to go through every day. She wanted the newspaper to send a strong message to the government on the urgency of ensuring our existence as we go about our daily lives.

At the opposite end of the spectrum were the editors who felt the publication was unjustified and only contributed to the aggravation of the already pitiful condition of the photo subjects. The impact of the bombing on the public's consciousness can be conveyed without showing the bloodied bodies of the victims.

This time, we overdid it, one editor remarked. The photo turned off, rather than shocked, the readers.

Middle ground

A middle-ground view was expressed by some editors. While they agree that the barbarity of terrorism should not be hidden from the public eye, they think the photo should have been "pixelized" or shaded in such a way that the lower portion of the bodies of the mother and child would not be seen by the readers.

"Pixelization" is usually done for photos that are gory or offensive to the senses, such as, when the guts of a person have spilled out or the face is badly mangled.

In the instant case, the anguish shown in the woman's face is more than sufficient to convey the intended message to the people and government without contributing further to her degradation. The exposure of her and her son's torso, one partially naked and the other totally undressed, did not add value to the already dramatic scene.

The hour-long discussion on the issue ended in a stalemate of sorts. The editors were unable to agree on what rules to apply in case something similar crops up again in the future. They arrived though at the consensus that the INQUIRER's policy on publication of photos of dead persons and private parts should be revisited so the editors can be properly guided on this issue.

Personal view

In my opinion, the photo should not have been published.

I can only imagine the emotional trauma the husband, relatives and friends of the victims suffered when they saw the pitiful sight. If the readers who did not know the victims were visibly appalled, what more for those who knew them or whose lives were touched by them?

The horrors of terrorism can be conveyed to the readers without adding to the miseries of their victims. Their right to privacy remains even if they find themselves in the limelight for reasons not of their own doing. In fact, they deserve special treatment and consideration because they were placed in a situation that no person in his right mind would want to be.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center last year and last week's carnage in Bali, Indonesia, far exceed the mayhem that hit Kidapawan City. But no footage or shots of victims in various stages of carnage were seen by the public.

The media told their stories in clear and well-written news reports and articles. The agony and pain suffered by the victims and their families were made known to the public through black ink, not shocking or bloody photos. The results sought to be achieved by the media were achieved in a way that did not make the readers lose their appetite to eat breakfast.

The Kidapawan City bombing could have received a similar, if not better, treatment.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Misplaced initiative in education?

I DO not doubt the noble intentions of the people behind the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) but its Adopt-A-School Program is a well-meaning but misplaced act of altruism.

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." Section 2 provides that "the State has the duty to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education." The first duty of the government is toward the education of the masses and, as mandated in Section 5, it shall assign the highest budgetary allocation to education. Education is a state function, therefore.

The Department of Education is the government's biggest bureaucracy, with the biggest budget. Why should the private sector—a pygmy by comparison—now help this sleeping giant? The private sector shouldn't bear the burden and guilt of a failing public school system because the DepEd was set up with a specific job to do: educate Filipino children through the public school system. If it has failed in its mandate by sleeping on the job, then it must be called to account. Underwriting or subsidizing the activities of a bloated and inefficient government agency is one wrong move on top of another. The DepEd is very well-funded as it is; the problem is that the money does not go where it is supposed to go: education.

The FWWPP should instead channel its energies and resources, first and foremost, toward the rectification of a monumental error of the DepEd: the catastrophically defective 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) presently being implemented in all public elementary and secondary schools. The DepEd chose to ignore the message implicit in the paid advertisement titled "Miseducating the Nation" and the article titled "Put the BEC on Hold," which were published by the INQUIRER on Sept. 18 and 28, respectively. The FWWPP could also commission people of known probity and proven competence to plan and develop a correct, rational and sensible curriculum that all Philippine schools can adopt. Lastly, rather than adopt a public elementary school, why couldn't the FWWPP simply put up schools of its own? Perhaps these could serve as models for all schools to follow.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor,
Marian School of Quezon City,
199 Sauyo Road, Novaliches,
Quezon City 1116

Wrong conclusion

REPORTERS Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo are both totally wrong to write the news that "Azcuna leads race for lone vacancy in the high court." The Supreme Court has only one vote in the Judicial and Bar Council and that is the vote of the Chief Justice, who is the ex-oficio chair of the council. It is wrong for the Supreme Court to take a consensus vote from among aspirants for appointment to the Court and to publish the result with a view to influence the voting in the JBC. This would be tantamount to a usurpation of functions of the council as the sole body designated by the Constitution to make the list of nominees for any judicial position. There is a rationale for the independence of the JBC in the choice of nominees to fill any vacancy in the Supreme Court.

From its composition, the JBC has seven votes: three from ex-oficio members namely, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the justice secretary, the members of Congress and the four votes of the regular members. To date, there are only three sitting regular members. The one to represent the academe has not yet been appointed. So, at present, the council has only six votes including the vote of the chair, the Chief Justice. So, it would be wrong to conclude that a nominee leads in the race for appointment only because he leads in the consensus vote of the Supreme Court. The JBC is independent from the Supreme Court.

—CEZAR C. PERALEJO SR.,
former member,
Judicial and Bar Council,
South Lawin, Philam Homes, QC

Faith alone

MANY people misunderstand us Born Again Christians when we say that faith is needed to be saved and do not mention good works and obedience (to the Commandments). They think that we are taking good works and obedience as without value whatsoever for salvation.

On the contrary, we believe and preach that works and obedience are important.

Why then do we say that faith alone can save?

The explanation can be gleaned from this illustration: There was a man who asked an old country sage the question: "What do we need to live in this world? " The old man answered: "Trees." A young boy who was listening to the dialogue corrected the old man by saying: "Sir, we also need the fruits. If we have the trees alone, we cannot live because we cannot eat the trees." So the sage replied: "My son, if we have the trees, we have the fruits."

So in declaring faith alone as the saving factor in Christian life, we are not discounting or discrediting works and obedience. We are only "answering in the scholarly manner as the old man and not in the childish and superfluous way of the young boy.

—SERGIO M. DIZON,
San Francisco, Mabalacat,
Pampanga

Complaints vs SSS are 'sub judice'

THIS is in connection with a three-part series of columns on the Social Security System by Honesto C. General, titled "How shaky is the SSS?" General stipulated figures and facts as basis for his opinion, which could lead to wrong impressions about the SSS and its operations.

We do not dispute the figures he quoted from our 2001 annual report, which were verified as correct by the Commission on Audit. We dispute the manner that General is bashing SSS officials based on his perception of their motivations.

As a columnist of the INQUIRER, General has a responsibility to uphold the integrity and good name of the paper. We believe General violated the journalism tenet on balanced reporting. His series of articles on SSS constitute unfair comment.

General was one of several complainants who filed charges with the Ombudsman against senior SSS officials for what he described as "illegal strikes" and "scandalous investments." The charges have been dismissed, but he and the others have filed a motion for reconsideration.

We don't expect General's complaints to make an objective commentary about the SSS. We regret that he is allowed to use his column to project his side on the charges that are the subject of court proceeding and to try to influence the outcome of these cases.

In his Oct. 8 column, General attacked nine members of the Social Security Commission for alleged profligacy that "betrays little regard for the welfare of its members." He said the commissioners maintain two offices and have an average staff of eight each. "In the private sector, directors do not have any staff, even those of San Miguel or Ayala," he said.

General was comparing members of the Social Security Commission, which has a quasi-judicial function, with the board of directors of a private company.

The commissioners regularly conduct hearings and write decisions on SSS-related cases on top of attending the regular weekly commission meetings which are the equivalent of the directors' meetings in private companies.

But it is not our intention to argue the issues raised by General in his column because it is sub judice. We leave it to the courts to resolve the case.

General questioned the decision of the Ombudsman to refer to the commission the case against employees involved in the strike. We leave it to the Ombudsman to respond to General. But it is not true that the commission "asked for the case" so the members "can sit on it."

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

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Bali probers make progress; cleric arrested

MUSLIM cleric Abu Bakar Bashir lies in his hospital bed as he is visited by police officials in Solo, central Java, Indonesia. AP

JAKARTA—Investigators said Sunday the probe into last week's Bali nightclub bombing was making progress, as authorities mulled how to interrogate the ailing spiritual leader of a militant group suspected in the attack.

About 100 students from the school run by the Islamic cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, blocked access to the hospital in the town of Solo where he is being treated for cardiac and breathing problems. Armed policemen stood by but did not intervene.

Defense Minister Matori Abdul Djalil accused Bashir of being linked to al-Qaida and said that his right-hand man, known as Hambali, was behind many of the country's terrorist bombings.

Matori stopped short of accusing Bashir—who has repeatedly denied any links to terrorism—of organizing the Bali attacks that killed at least 183 people and injured more than 300.

The two men are accused of being leaders of Jemaah Islamiyah, believed to be al-Qaida's main ally in Southeast Asia.

Hambali is accused of arranging a meeting of two of the Sept. 11 hijackers with other al-Qaida figures in Malaysia in January 2000.

"Our intelligence work confirms that Hambali is Abu Bakar Bashir's vice chairman," Matori said on Saturday, a week after bombs tore through a nightclub district. "It is illogical if Abu Bakar Bashir says that he doesn't know about the bombings in Indonesia."

Bashir has not been named as a suspect in the Bali attacks. His arrest Saturday stemmed from his alleged connection to a spate of church bombings two years ago in which 19 people died.

Implicated

Suspicion focused on Bashir after a team of Indonesian investigators returned from questioning Omar al-Faruq, an alleged al-Qaida operative arrested in Indonesia and extradited to the United States in June. Al-Faruq fingered Bashir as ordering the church bombings, and implicated him in the activities of Jemaah Islamiyah.

Gen. Edward Aritonang, a national police spokesperson, confirmed Sunday that Bashir had been arrested on the basis of al-Faruq's testimony.

He said the investigation—conducted jointly by over 100 investigators from Indonesia, Australia, the United States, Britain and other countries—was proceeding well.

"There has been some progress now," Aritonang said without elaborating.

Bashir, 64, who was arrested Friday, is being kept under guard at the main hospital in Solo. A team of police doctors, who arrived at the hospital before the blockade by Bashir's supporters Sunday, was seeing whether the cleric is healthy enough to travel to Jakarta, 400 km to the west, for questioning.

Bashir's doctor said Sunday his patient's health was improving and that he could be released in two or three days. Umar Baradja, Bashir's brother, said police commanders indicated "he could rest in hospital until Thursday."

Police said they were considering confining Bashir to Solo—between his home and the hospital—under police supervision, or taking him to a police hospital in Jakarta and holding him there.

Warning of the threat of new terrorist attacks, Australia urged its citizens to leave Indonesia, saying areas in Jakarta could be hit. The United States, which has evacuated 350 diplomats and dependents, advised Americans to put off travel to the country.

Emergency decree

President Megawati Sukarnoputri on Friday signed an emergency decree that allow suspects to be detained for up to six months without charge. Those convicted of carrying out or threatening acts of terror may face the death penalty.

The measures will be enforced by the police. Many human rights activists are leery of wider powers for the Indonesian military, which has a long record of brutal abuses.

On Bali, about 200 Indonesians, including some surviving workers from one of the bombed nightclubs, gathered at a makeshift shrine of flowers near the blast site late Saturday, one week almost to the hour after the attack.

The identification and repatriation of the victims—many of them burned beyond recognition—has been painfully slow for the family members trying to retrieve loved ones. Only 47 bodies have been positively identified. *AP*

STUDENTS from the school run by the Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir shout slogans while blocking the access to a hospital where Bashir is being treated in Solo. REUTERS

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UK starts calling up reservists

LONDON—Britain is about to begin calling up specialist medical teams from its pool of reserve troops in preparation for war with Iraq, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper said.

"We've got to move on this by the end of the month to keep to the timetable," it quoted a senior Ministry of Defense official as saying.

A spokesperson for the ministry declined to comment directly on the front-page article, but said nothing had been decided.

"No decisions have been taken yet to call up reservists," she said.

The Sunday Telegraph said a secret meeting during the week had pinpointed the need to put close to 1,000 reservists on standby to be called up within two months.

The newspaper said most of those called up would be specialist staff—probably anesthetists and surgeons.

It said the notice period would give employers time to adjust to the imminent loss of their staff.

The United States, backed by Britain, has pushed for a tough UN resolution authorizing force against Iraq if Baghdad failed to comply with new demands on weapons inspections.

However, they have met stern resistance from fellow permanent members of the UN Security Council whose backing they need in order to give any military action a veneer of international respectability.

But shipping sources have said a US military build-up in the region is pressing ahead, and diplomats said they expected the deadlock over the UN resolution to be resolved in coming days after Washington put forward a compromise draft. *Reuters*

Sniper seriously wounds man in Virginia

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POLICE in Woodbridge stop a motorist driving a white van after a shooting near Ashland, Virginia. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Police mounted a massive manhunt late on Saturday for the sniper who has been terrorizing the Washington area after a man was shot and wounded in neighboring Virginia.

The 37-year-old man, who has not been named, was shot in the abdomen as he was leaving a restaurant with his wife, and a hospital spokesperson said he was in critical condition after three hours of surgery.

"He's in critical condition in the intensive care unit . . . that's the most serious condition and it is life-threatening but I can't say anymore," Pam Lepley, a spokesperson for the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, said.

If linked to the sniper who has killed nine people and wounded two in Washington and neighboring Marlyand and Virginia over the past two weeks, the man would be the 12th victim since Oct. 2.

"We don't . . . know if it's tied in or related to the sniper in northern Virginia and Maryland. But we're going to treat it as if it is until we know that it's not," said Col. Stuart Cook of the Sheriff's Department in Hanover County where the shooting took place.

Police cars surrounded the area and virtually shut down nearby highways as they checked traffic, concentrating on white vans as described by several witnesses at previous shooting sites.

The shooting bears the hallmarks of the Washington sniper—shot at random and felled by a single shot while engaged in a mundane, everyday activity off a highway.

The man was shot in a parking lot outside a Ponderosa Steakhouse restaurant in Ashland, Virginia, about 25 km north of Richmond, Virginia, southwest of Washington.

Ashland Police Chief Frederic Pleasants said the victim and his wife, who were passing through the region and had stopped for a meal and gasoline, were leaving the restaurant when the shot rang out at about 8 p.m., apparently from a wooded area behind the restaurant.

He said the wooded area was about 30 meters away from where the victim was shot while he was walking with is wife.

"She heard a sound, but didn't relate it to a gun shot. Her husband took about three steps and then began to collapse in the parking lot," Pleasants said.

"The best evidence we have right now from the few witnesses we have—they believe the shot came from a wooded tree line" behind the restaurant and other adjacent businesses, Pleasants said.

He said investigators and police dogs were searching the wooded area for clues. No bullet has been recovered and CNN said the bullet was still in the victim. The hospital spokesperson declined to confirm the report.

Authorities quickly cordoned off major interstate highways in the area in an attempt to catch the shooter. Authorities were checking cars and trucks on roads all the way to Washington.

"Prudence dictates that we responded this way, and (we) implemented this highway shutdown plan because of the fact that this is a very unusual incident for this community—someone being shot for no apparent reason and from some type of a stealth position," he said.

"But I will emphasize once again—we have been able to uncover no credible evidence or description of a suspect or a suspect vehicle."

Authorities said authorities were monitoring vehicles on highways looking for anything suspicious.

"Vehicles are being checked and released slowly. I know that the highways are pretty well jammed up. But this is based on a tactical response plan that was developed last week by the central Virginia law enforcement agencies and it was implemented fairly efficiently and quickly," Pleasants said. *Reuters*

Koreas open first Cabinet-level talks since nuke report

SEOUL—Inter-Korean talks began in somber mood Sunday, with South Korea demanding that North Korea scrap its nuclear weapons program. The communist state gave no immediate response, South Korean officials said.

The Cabinet-level talks in the North's capital, Pyongyang, offered South Korea its first official opportunity to react to the reclusive North's stunning admission to the United States last week that it has a program to enrich uranium to make nuclear weapons, in defiance of a 1994 agreement to abandon any such program.

"We demanded that North Korea faithfully honor all international agreements it has signed," local pool reports quoted Rhee Bong-jo, a South Korean spokesperson, as saying after the first round of talks ended after 50 minutes.

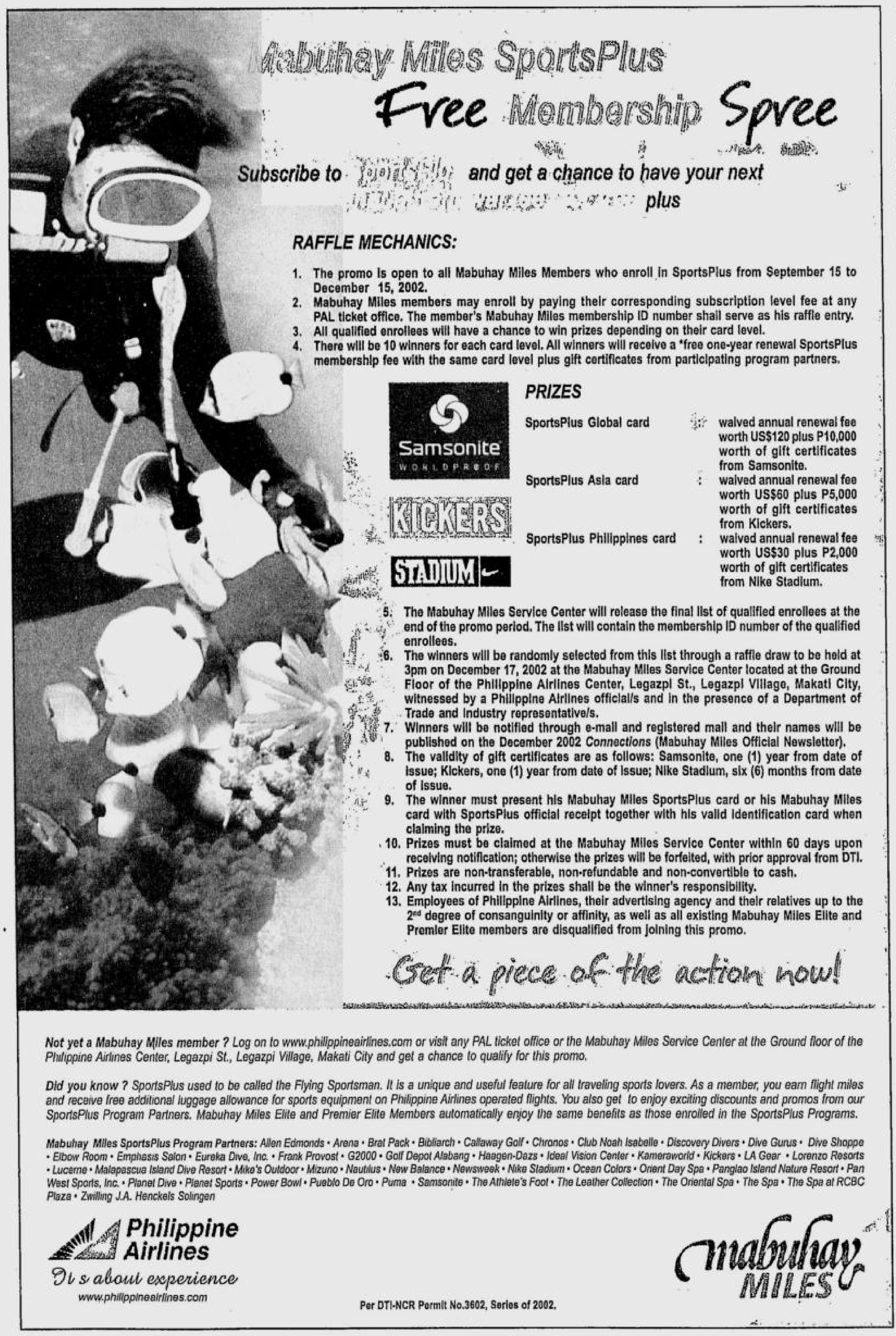
"We also asked them to open dialogue with concerned countries and the international society and take convincing actions," Rhee said in the pool reports which were distributed in Seoul. No foreign reporters were allowed to cover the talks.

Rhee said North Korean officials "just listened" to the South Korean demands and did not respond.

The two Koreas had no plan for a further formal meeting Sunday but instead would continue to discuss the nuclear issue in informal talks, Rhee said.

The talks, the eighth round between the rival Koreas since a historic inter-Korean summit in 2000, were scheduled to continue until Tuesday.

"Overall, the atmosphere of the talks was heavy but sincere," Rhee said. Other issues discussed Sunday included a proposal to account for thousands of people missing during and after the 1950-53 Korean War. *AP*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Nuclear club growing, could grow faster still

A MUSHROOM cloud rises 20,000 feet over Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945, moments after an atomic bomb was dropped on the city by US forces. Although nuclear weapons are cached by a relatively small number of nations, the nuclear arms club has grown, the newest members—India, Pakistan and now North Korea. AP

WASHINGTON—North Korea's knock on the door of the burgeoning nuclear club has thrown into question the decades-old idea of a nuclear elite pledged to keeping other countries out.

Now grave concerns are being raised not only over that country's potential ascension into the ranks of nuclear powers but also about whether North Korea will spread the technology.

North Korea admitted this month that it has flouted a 1994 agreement to freeze nuclear weapons development. The revelation adds to growing worries over nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan and efforts by countries such as Iraq to develop the ultimate weapon.

An abundance of nuclear technology in North Korea, long known for its ballistic missile sales, anticipates a nightmare domino effect, experts say. That argument is underscored by the likelihood that recent club member Pakistan, despite its denials, helped the reclusive east Asian dictatorship to the door.

"The concern is North Korea eventually becoming a supplier of nuclear technology, said Jon Wolfsthal, a nuclear proliferation expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The nonproliferation treaty of 1968 was aimed at confining nuclear weapons to the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China and coming up with formulas for those nations to eliminate their weapons systems. The treaty suffered its first major blow in 1998.

Stirred by clashes in the disputed Kashmir province, India and Pakistan openly tested weapons they had previously refused to acknowledge having. The United States reined in passions with the quick threat of punishment, but experts say the Indian subcontinent is the likeliest site of the first belligerent use of nuclear weapons since 1945.

By contrast, experts believe North Korea's short-term priority is simply to deter South Korea and its allies from seeking the downfall of Kim Jong-il's government.

The longer-term danger is reflected in North Korea's propensity for selling long-range ballistic missile technology to all takers, with intelligence agencies tracking deals with Iran, Syria and Iraq.

Such missiles now in those hands already pose threats to Western interests in the Middle East. Armed with nuclear warheads, they could change the world balance of power forever.

"North Korea says it sells ballistic missile technology because it's in dire straits; it needs cash," said Steve LaMontagne of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. "What if it takes the same attitude with nuclear technology, selling it to other countries or even terrorists?"

That depends on how far along the weapons program is.

The United States long has believed that North Korea had one or two bombs manufactured from 1980s-vintage plutonium. Another cache of fuel rods sealed by the United States after the 1994 agreement might have produced another five weapons.

Even at that level, there would have been few implications beyond the balance of power on the Korean peninsula, where 37,000 US soldiers help secure the armistice that stopped the 1950-53 war with South Korea and its Western allies.

"Two, four, even eight warheads—that would make them feel secure and deter the United States," Wolfsthal said, and not much more. "The huge problem would be a surplus of nuclear materials."

That danger emerged this summer when the United States uncovered evidence of purchase orders for materials aimed at building centrifuges to separate weapons-grade uranium from lower-grade uranium. Enriched uranium is easier to hide and more reliable than plutonium.

"If you have a supplier and a buyer out there, it's a matter of time until they hook up," said Stephen Blank, a Koreas expert at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. *AP*

HUMOR IN AFGHANISTAN

Robin makes US troops laugh

AMERICAN actor Robin William poses with a US soldier at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan after entertaining US soldiers with the 18th Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne. AP

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Hyperactive Hollywood comedian Robin Williams treated US troops to uncensored helpings of his zany humor during a tour of bases in Afghanistan that ended on Sunday.

Within minutes of landing at the dust-plagued Bagram Air Base north of Kabul, Williams served up a raunchy, rapid-fire routine with something to offend just about everyone.

He compared Afghan women in traditional coverall burqas to beekeepers, took digs at US media billionaire Ted Turner and his former wife Jane Fonda and also risked the wrath of chat show queen Oprah Winfrey and military caterers.

Unfettered by domestic prudery, Williams dished out plenty of expletives and sexual innuendo, but inverting the norms of US television, his Hollywood publicists were insistent media cameras should show no guns in the same frame as the star.

Williams made sure that most of his routine was more suitable for the barrack room than family television viewing.

But from the moment he introduced himself with an earsplitting "Gooodmoorning Bagraaaaam!," recalling his role as a military radio presenter in the movie "Goodmorning Vietnam," he was a huge hit with the hundreds of male and female troops in the audience.

"Good luck with those shots fellas," he quipped to the cameras after using a plastic mineral water bottle to demonstrate the supposed effects of Viagra, adding to a female soldier: "I'm sorry for spraying you girl—don't go Oprah on me."

He had the troops in stitches with a pun on the supposed intestinal effects of "Meals Ready to Eat," as well as references to the ban on alcohol at US bases in Afghanistan and sexual frustrations in what is a strict Muslim state.

"I see many of you have been here a long time," he said. "You have more seamen than the Fifth Fleet! I see a lot of people saying: 'Take me home, I must get laid.'"

Williams laughed off the dangers of Afghanistan, joking that it was impossible to complete a round of golf because the 10th hole was mined.

"A lovely flight in thank you," he said. "I love spiraling in. Nothing like that to make your colon say "fire in the hole!"

Then pointing up to a yawning gap in the hanger caused by a rocket or bomb, he added: "I love the lovely Afghani renovation in the wall. Whoa baby whoaah, too late now!"

However, Williams' Hollywood minders were apparently nervous about his security during a visit that also took him to the US base at Kandahar, a former stronghold of the ousted Taliban regime and the al-Qaida network that US forces are pursuing in Afghanistan.

They insisted journalists respect a publication embargo on Thursday's Bagram show until his departure from Afghanistan on Sunday. His trip earlier took him to a US base in neighboring Uzbekistan.

Captain Beverly Grandison, a signals officer with the battalion from the 82nd Airborne Division based at Bagram, said the soldiers were delighted Williams had taken time to share some of their hardships.

"He was awesome, he's great. He's a really good comedian. In all the years I've enjoyed everything he's done. I appreciate him coming out here for sure," Grandison said.

"It's great he's come here to see how we're living and breathe all the great dust. It's pretty cool that he did that.

"I got an autograph and his picture so it's really cool." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Saddam pardons all

BAGHDAD—In a nationally televised address Sunday, the Iraqi government announced an amnesty for all Iraqi prisoners as a thank you to the nation for reelecting President Saddam Hussein. The statement, read on television by Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhafa wearing a military style uniform, said the "full and complete and final amnesty" applied to "any Iraqi imprisoned or arrested for political or any other reason." But those accused of murder, the statement said, would only be released if the victims' families agreed. The announcement came as the Iraqi government attempted to rally domestic and international support in the face of US determination to topple it. The amnesty was intended to thank the Iraqi people for their support of Saddam, who claimed a 100-percent 'yes' vote in a presidential referendum last week, the statement said. "It's a unanimity that others are incapable of believing and it is the greatest truth of this age from this great, honest, warm people," the statement said. "The referendum honored us before the whole world." *AP*

Search ends for US fliers

POINT SUR, California—The US Coast Guard called off its search for four US Navy officers missing since their two fighter jets collided during a combat exercise Friday. The search ended at 6:30 p.m. Friday because of sea and weather conditions, and because about 33 hours had passed since the pilots were reported missing, according to Coast Guard spokesperson Matt Juillerat. The Navy identified the missing officers as Lt. Stephen R. Nevarez, 31, a weapons systems officer from New Orleans; Lt. Joel A. Korkowski, 30, a pilot from Phoenix; Lt. Matthew S. Shubzda, 27, a pilot from Dallas; and Lt. Stephen N. Benson, 26, a weapons system officer from Virginia Beach, Virginia. The four were members of Strike Fighter Squadron 41, based at Lemoore Naval Air Station near Fresno, California. Two cutters, an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter and three commercial fishing vessels helped search the chilly waters of the Pacific Ocean 130 km southwest of Monterey, Coast Guard spokesperson Veronica Bandrowski said. The Coast Guard also used computer-aided search programs, which calculate sea changes, wind and other factors, to help guide searchers over about 100 sqkm where the pilots may have drifted. *AP*

Cops hunt arsonists

SYDNEY, Australia— Police on Sunday were hunting arsonists responsible for a bush fire in a winemaking region near Sydney that left one man dead and destroyed 13 homes. Police said the fire in Abernethy in the Hunter Valley appeared to have been deliberately lit. They did not give further details. A 55-year-old man died on Saturday when flames engulfed his car near the small village about 100 km north of Sydney. Thirteen homes in the area were also destroyed, and several firefighters suffered minor injuries while battling the flames. *AP*

What India women want

NEW DELHI—You're a tall, dark, handsome hunk with a bulging wallet. And you think women fancy you. If you're in India, think again. Indian women are looking for a man who understands women, is honest and responsible and doesn't drink too much. It would also help if you can treat women as equals, are intelligent, faithful, a homemaker and a good father, don't have a violent temper and don't talk loosely about women. Oh, and you must be good in bed. The long wishlist is the outcome of a survey aiming to find out what Indian women want in a man. The survey, conducted by the Center for Forecasting and Research for the weekly magazine Outlook, covered 2,150 women across 10 cities, Outlook said in its issue which hit the stands on Sunday. "It wasn't money, property, career prospects or even looks and a good body that mattered the most," Outlook said. "He had to listen to her, treat her as an equal and be honest to be in her good books." *Reuters*

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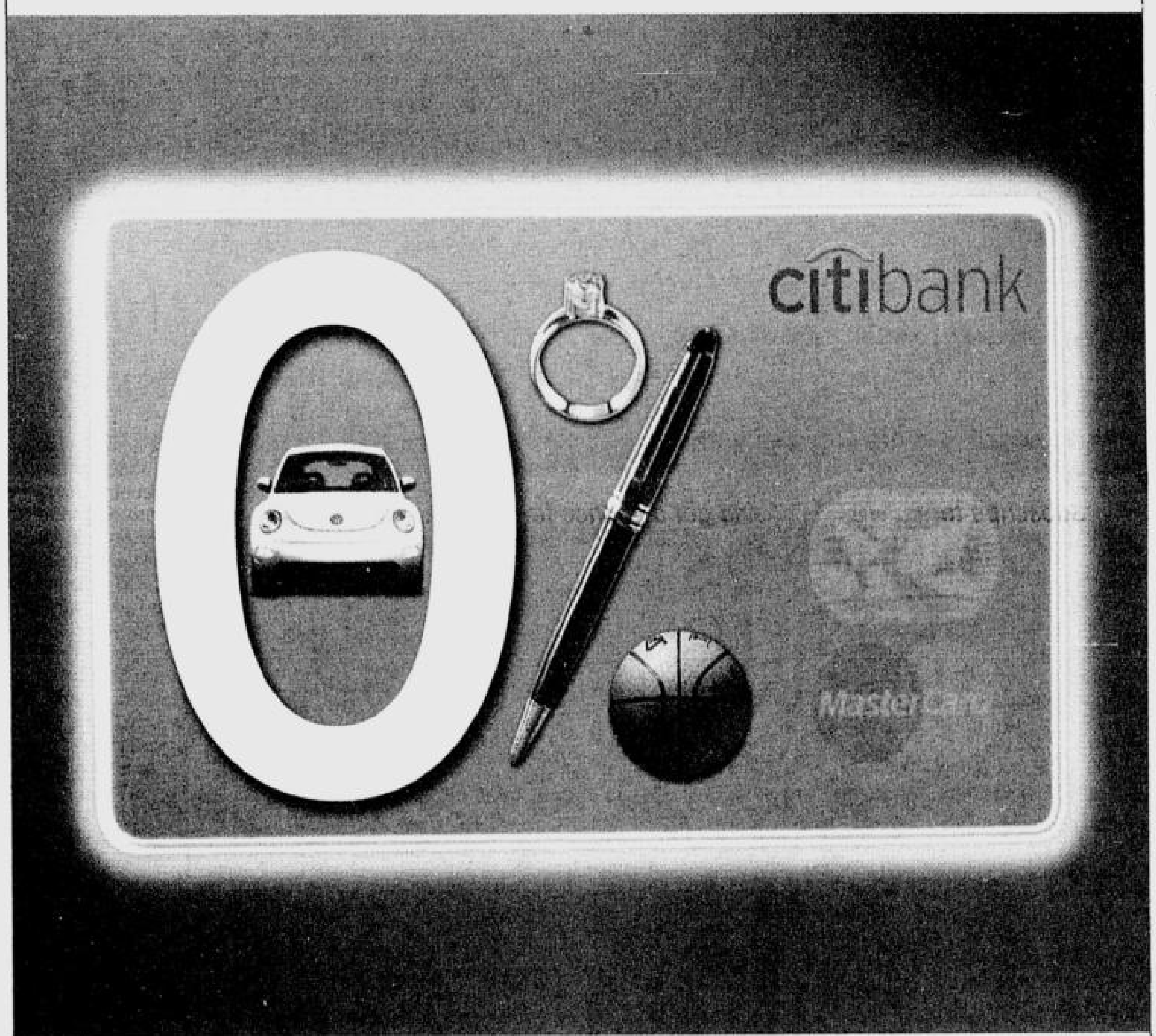

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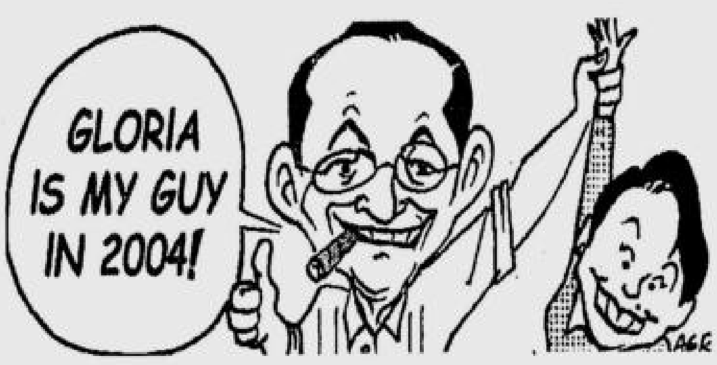
GLORIA IS MY GUY IN 2004!
A&G

FVR says new term as president not among his plans, backs GMA

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Former President Fidel Ramos has declared his support for the presidential bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

"I am not going to run (for president) in 2004. I will support President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004," Ramos told reporters here on Friday.

Ramos, however, declined to say more when pressed to explain why he is backing President Macapagal.

He instead stressed that the government right now needs all the help it can get to allow the economy to bounce back.

Ramos also said that insofar as his own political future is concerned, he is already happy being a former president.

"I am happy in my role as ex-president, doing what I'm doing helping open the doors in foreign countries for business people and workers so they can have better opportunities," Ramos said at a press conference at L'Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City.

Ramos said it was too early to talk about politics and told reporters here to ask other questions, such as those about efforts to boost the economy.

"We should not lose hope in ourselves and our government," he said.

Ramos also stressed that what he has been doing with the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation "is non-political."

New bomb threats hound bus firm; extortionists eyed

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A bus company received fresh bomb threats from alleged extortionists even as North Cotabato authorities considered the Oct. 10 blast at its bus terminal here a closed case following the arrest of the suspected bomber.

Guimid Andam, manager of Weena Express Corp. (Weena) for Cotabato, said calls and text messages from unidentified persons have warned company management of more explosions.

The first threat came on Thursday, a day after suspected bomber Datu Ali Sultan was arrested, Andam said.

But he said the company had remained unfazed and that security would be doubled.

At least seven people were killed while 25 others were wounded when a homemade bomb exploded in the busy terminal area here on Oct. 10.

Before the incident, a group calling itself the Urban Lions had demanded P4 million in protection money from the Weena owner, Bienvenido Valdevieso. Its leader, who identified himself as Ting Texson, warned Valdevieso of attacks unless the money was given.

Valdevieso declined to give in. Shortly after the blast, Texson had called him up, saying, "You won't give so I bomb one of your buses in Kidapawan."

Supporters of the alleged brains in the bomb attack, Datu Musin Mamintal, trooped to the headquarters of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade in Carmen, North Cotabato, insisting that he was merely a fall guy. Mamintal was identified by the suspected bomber, Sultan, as the mastermind.

"How can he possibly do it? He is not the kind of man who will ruin his reputation by extorting money from a bus firm and bomb it if the owner refuses," said Rodolfo Akmad, an engineer working for Mamintal. A defeated mayoral candidate in Pikit town, Mamintal is a sub-contractor in the Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam project.

"Datu Musin is a millionaire," Akmad said. "Even Christians in Maguindanao can tell that he is a good man . . . that he is not capable of killing people."

In General Santos, Sr. Supt. Jorge Aquisap, acting city police director, urged residents to report to authorities people who were sending text messages warning about bomb explosions.

Following last week's explosions in Manila and Zamboanga City, text messages have circulated in the city, disclosing bombs allegedly planted in several busy areas.

Aquisap advised the residents to remain calm, saying that the city police were doing their best to prevent any terrorist attack.

A series of explosions rocked General Santos several months ago. *With a report from Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bulacan town mayor denies links to 'jueteng'

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A Bulacan mayor linked by the police to jueteng operations in the province has denied his involvement in illegal gambling.

"I'm not that person. Why would I answer for those charges?" said Mayor Jaime Viceo Jr. of San Rafael town.

On Monday, the provincial police filed illegal gambling charges against suspected gambling lords Boy Viceo (whom the police claim is Mayor Viceo), Abet Viceo, Abner Nicolas, Otto Balboa and Lito Somera, a suspected distributor of video karera machines in the province.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said "Boy Viceo" and his brother Abet and their brother-in-law Nicolas were linked to jueteng operations by at least 66 jueteng supervisors and bet collectors who were recently arrested by the police.

But Serapio said they could not directly implicate Mayor Viceo in the case as the arrested jueteng personnel failed to establish that "Boy Viceo" was indeed the mayor.

The Viceos were charged before the Calumpit municipal trial court after their supposed employees were arrested while collecting bets and conducting draws in the town.

Serapio said jueteng operators in Bulacan conduct mobile operations, usually inside jeepneys and vans, to avoid the police. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Women's groups assail abortion tag on bill

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Women's groups here are pushing for the passage of a reproductive health bill that would promote the welfare of Filipino women.

In a recent consultation here, local chapters of the Womanhealth Philippines and the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) also vowed to raise awareness on House Bill 4110 also known as Reproductive Health Care Act.

Local health officials in the city and province of Iloilo have also supported the lobby for the bill's passage into law, despite perceived pressure from Catholic Church leaders who claim it promotes abortion.

The bill guarantees access to a host of services related to health and reproductive functions.

Women's groups define reproductive health as the state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease.

It implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and have access to safe methods of family planning of their choice.

Couples can decide freely on the number, spacing and timing of their children and make decisions about their bodies and health without discrimination, coercion and violence.

Women's groups here expect that their lobby for the bill's passage will clash with Catholic Church's views because of the provision that provides medical services for women who have illegal abortion.

"We are not pro-abortion but we should not deny women who had illegal abortion the life-saving treatment if they are rushed to hospitals," said Azucena Pestaño of Womanhealth.

Iloilo provincial health chief Doctor Carmen Bayate said she supported the bill because it would improve women's health especially in the rural areas.

Without access to safe contraceptives, families would have more children, with women always bearing the brunt of rearing them.

While the Population Commission (PopCom) regional office was supportive of the bill, it was, however, critical of the manner by which it was phrased as it could be interpreted as pro-abortion.

In a position paper, the PopCom said the statements on "voluntary sexual and reproductive health procedures . . ." may be misinterpreted as pro-abortion. The PopCom proposed a review of the bill.

Women's groups defended the controversial provisions. In a forum, Anna Leah Sarabia of the Manila-based Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN) said the bill sought to improve the health and well being of Filipinos.

"The promotion of reproductive health is important so that we may be able to meet the universal standards of health and development," she said.

Tourism exec, accountant face corruption charges

BUTUAN CITY—Seven employees of the Department of Tourism (DOT) here filed graft and corruption charges against their regional director and accountant before the Office of the Ombudsman in Mindanao.

In their sworn affidavit, the complainants led by former acting administrative officer Norberto Callanta Jr. alleged that DOT regional director Ma. Salome Aquino and accountant Rebecca Jadman allowed and approved the disbursement of alleged fictitious payments of P2,500 for the monthly rental of the director's quarters since 1999 to Metudio Rama.

They alleged that the payments were never made to Rama since the director's quarters were included in the rental of their regional offices, which is found in the same building.

Rama denied receiving the payments.

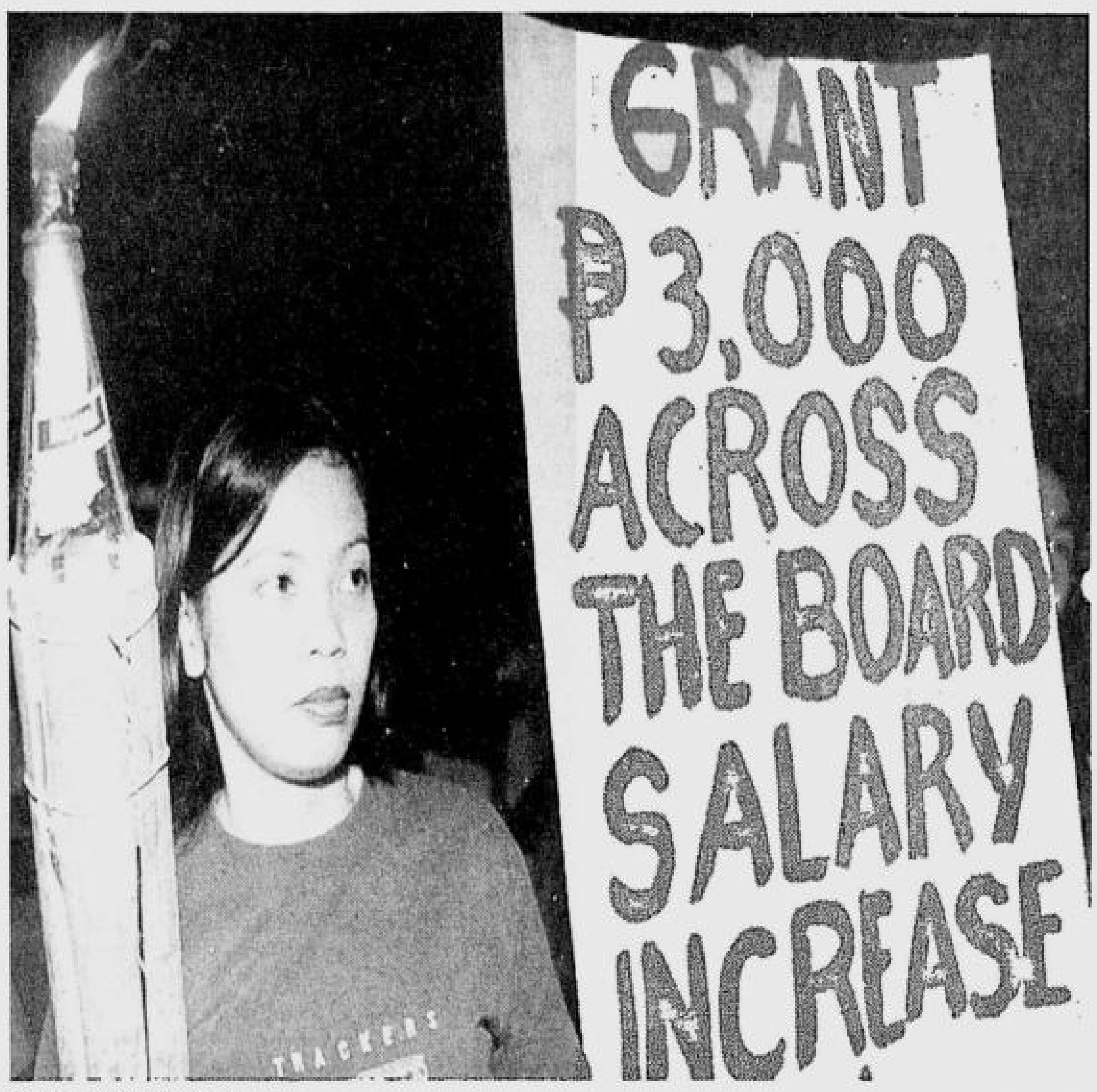
Aside from the alleged payments, the complainants also accused the two of deducting P1,778 from each employee from their additional incentive of P16,003 last year. The amount was allegedly used to bribe to an auditor.

They were also accused of encashing Philippine Veteran's Bank (PVB) check no. 6639 dated July 25, 2001 in favor of Cruz Telephone Company, Inc. (Cruztelco) and pocketing the said amount.

After verification, Roqueza Palma, disbursement officer and one of the complainants, said there was no such amount returned to her.

The respondents also allegedly allowed the issuance of PVB checks for Ronwood Construction and Supply and Downtown Computer Center for an unspecified debt.

"There was never any canvass of suppliers made," the complainants said. *Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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WAGE DEMAND BING GONZALES
A government employee joins a torch parade in Davao City to press the government to implement a P3,000 across-the-board increase for all government workers.

P32M paid to landowners for new Iloilo airport

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A total of P32 million was paid to landowners Friday who agreed to part with their lands to give way to the new Iloilo Airport between the towns of Cabatuan and Sta. Barbara towns, 19 kilometers west of here.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza handed out checks to 61 lot owners at the Iloilo provincial Capitol.

The distribution of the checks was hailed by Drilon and local officials as a step closer to the realization of the P6.1 billion new Iloilo airport that was proposed five years ago.

Construction of the new airport will start in June next year and is expected to end by January of 2006. The money will come from the Special Yen Loan Package or "Obuchi Fund." The Philippine government counterpart is P928 million. The government has allocated P105 million for the airport project this year.

The new airport will host a new domestic airport located between Cabatuan and Sta. Barbara, 19 km from here. It will have a 2,500-meter long runway that could accommodate bigger aircraft.

The present Iloilo Airport at Mandurriao is inadequate to meet the growing volume of air passengers and cargo traffic.

In a press conference, Drilon said that checks to the landowners would be released by batches until the end of the month. He said that 89 percent of 229 landowners have agreed to the price of P65 per square meter.

Negotiations for land acquisition dragged for more than three years because landowners were seeking better prices for their land, many of them rain-fed ricefields.

Landowners earlier rejected the P50 per sq.m. price but they finally agreed to the P65 per sq.m. final offer by the government because they said "they have no choice."

Some of the landowners were not too happy with the deal. One of them was Florencia Flores, who was teary eyed when she received the checks for half of her 2,500 square meters of riceland.

"What was left with us is a small plot. The money would mainly go to pay our debts. I am sad because the riceland is with us for the last 50 years," she said.

Twenty-four landowners have rejected the purchase price but Drilon said they plan to file expropriation proceedings in court where the government would deposit the money for P65 per sq.m. or P650,000 per hectare. The total land area up for expropriation is 16 hectares.

"We cannot stop a P6.1 billion project because some landowners are simply unreasonable," said Drilon.

The landowners' lawyer, Roberto Maroma, said his clients were not against the government offer but only wanted more compensation for the trees and other improvements they have introduced in their land. "The negotiations must continue because the 24 landowners are not against the buying price," he said.

Drilon said the government's offer was a good price considering that before the area was eyed as an airport site, the valuation of the land was only P12 per sq.m.

The government also provided a 2.8-hectare relocation site in Barangay Banguit, Cabatuan for 27 families, many of them tenants who will be displaced by the airport.

The DOTC and the town of Cabatuan signed on Friday a memorandum for development of the relocation site.

Execs suspect Diwalwal miners cheating gov't of its share in gold

DAVAO CITY—The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has expressed suspicion that small-scale miners on Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley were shortchanging the government of its share from mining operations there.

Horacio Ramos, MGB director, said reports reaching the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noted that the government was getting only three percent of the gold ore coming out of the Diwata mines, instead of the 15 percent as contained in the agreement signed with miners.

"We noticed that the government's share has low gold content," Ramos said.

The 15-85 sharing scheme with small-scale miners was part of the effort to end the violence that has claimed more than 100 lives since gold was first discovered in Diwata, which is also known as Diwalwal.

The revenue would depend on gold ore evaluation but the government has expected about P18.7 million in six months from service contracts estimated to churn our 300 tons of ore per day.

The DENR, which would be represented by the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), gets and administers the government share.

Two percent of the government share represents the excise tax from the mining operations, one (1) percent goes to the Indigenous People in the area as royalty share; one (1) percent to the local government unit as environment user's fee; five (5) percent for the NRDC as management fee; one (1) percent for possible vested right royalty legal precaution and five (5) percent for the social development plan.

The royalty share of the IPs will be kept by the NRDC and will only be released if a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) has already been issued for Diwalwal.

For the social development plan, the major priority project is the tailings disposal dam, which the NRDC is putting up with a P50-million loan secured from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Ramos said because of the suspicion, he was urging the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) and the technical working group on Diwata to closely monitor the share of the government.

He said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has also warned miners, who were given service contracts, against reneging on their contracts.

Ramos said service contracts, issued a few months ago, would be cancelled if contractors do not comply with its provisions.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the government's crisis manager for Diwalwal, said the only way to ensure that the government gets its rightful share is for the contracts to be amended.

Duterte said he would rather get the government's share from "milled" ore.

But Ramos said it could be difficult to monitor milled ore.

If a working place has 10 grams of assured grade and the share given to the government is less than that, then the appropriate penalty could be imposed on the erring service contractor. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tagbilaran council blocks entry of new radio station

TAGBILARAN CITY—The city council here has passed a resolution "vehemently opposing" the application of Cebu Broadcasting Co. (CBC) with the National Telecommunications Commission to operate a station on the FM band in the city.

Resolution No. 300-02, passed during the city council session last Wednesday presided over by Vice Mayor Jorge Cabalit, noted that there is no longer any room for CBC in Tagbilaran since the city already has two existing radio stations on the FM band, dyRD-FM and dyTR-FM.

Station dyRD is owned and managed by the Dejaresco family while dyTR is owned by the CAP Group of Companies.

According to the resolution, the two FM stations cater to a "considerably small broadcast market" in the frequency modulated band.

It noted that in addition to the operation of the two Tagbilaran-based FM stations, more than 15 Cebu-based FM stations also reach their signals in Bohol as well as in Tagbilaran.

"To allow a Cebu-based broadcast company to operate, install and maintain an FM station in Tagbilaran will already be detrimental to the local broadcast industry," the resolution added.

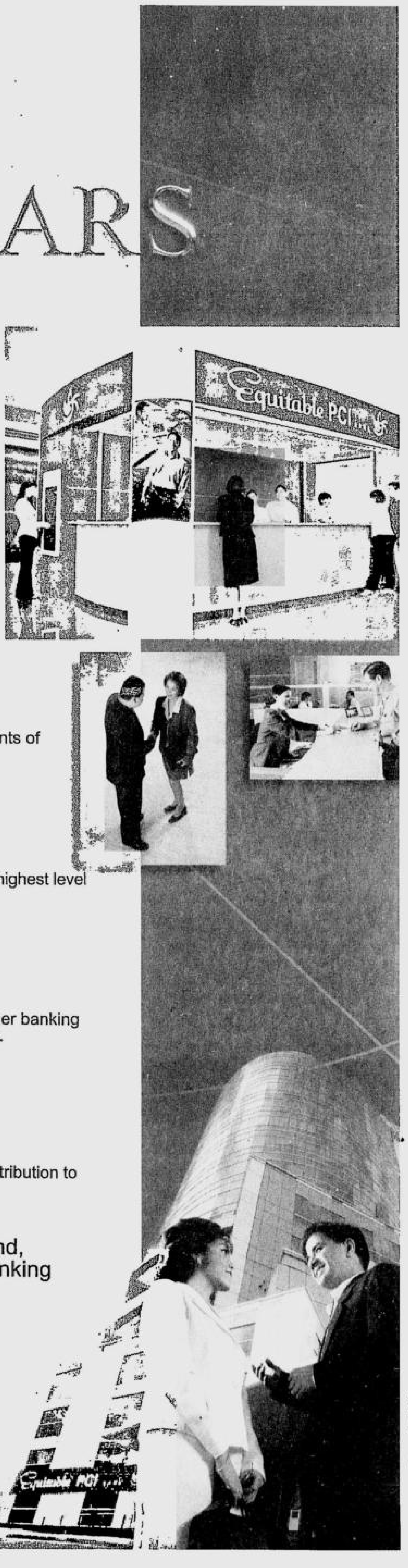
It did not elaborate how the operation of another Tagbilaran-based FM station will be detrimental to the local broadcast industry.

The resolution was authored by Councilor Mariano Capayas.

Councilors Danilo Bantugan and Frances Marinel Abellana abstained from voting on the resolution.

Bantugan occasionally anchors a public service program on dyRD-AM, a sister station of dyRD-FM, aside from writing a column for the Bohol Chronicle, a local newspaper also owned by the Dejaresco family.

It was not immediately known why Abellana, newly elected Sangguniang Kabataan city federation president, abstained. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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NPAs attack Aurora motorcycle store

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Suspected New People's Army guerrillas lobbed two hand grenades and opened fire with automatic rifles at the store of a motorcycle distributor in Aurora on Saturday afternoon, Army reports said.

No one was reported killed or hurt but the blast damaged the store's facade, Col. Jovenal Narcise; chief of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said.

He said the "violent harassment" on Royce Motors in Baler, Aurora, was led by suspected NPA commander Jobert Navarro alias "Ka Marcial."

He said at least seven rebels used M-16 and M-14 Armalite rifles in the attack. Police and Army soldiers recovered 22 bullet casings in front of the store.

The assault came after residents complained against the supposed high interest rates imposed by the owner of the establishment.

The owner, who was not identified by Narcise, reportedly received "several extortion letters" from the NPA before the attack. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Plan to 'nationalize' PMA mentors' corps pushed

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Military Academy wants to "nationalize" its corps of professors to enable them to be integrated into the top military academic institutions in the country.

The PMA's academic staff has drawn up a draft measure, which Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former PMA superintendent, is sponsoring in the Senate.

Initiated by retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the measure aims to improve the academic training programs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force by introducing into their systems PMA's professors, doctors and tactical officers.

Col. Tadeo Claravall, who replaced Purificacion as PMA assistant superintendent and dean of the PMA corps of professors on Friday, said adopting a nationalized corps of professors "would help develop world-class soldiers for the AFP."

Beneficiaries

The likely beneficiaries of the corps' nationalization are maritime colleges and institutions like the National Defense College and other schools that offer related courses.

Biazon's bill expands the coverage and benefits of military trainers and accords them special privileges in the AFP as part of the military's modernization plan.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, is also gearing up for a PMA stakeholders' conference on Tuesday to reinforce or reconstruct PMA's courses.

Adan said the urban terrorism crisis plaguing the world demanded a review of the academy's educational outlines and philosophies.

"The corps of professors is the very lifeblood of PMA, whose (expertise) has helped seek new approaches to Philippine combat," said Maj. Michael Morales, head of the corps' educational and technical staff.

Repercussions

However, he said, members of the corps said they are also prepared for the measure's political repercussions.

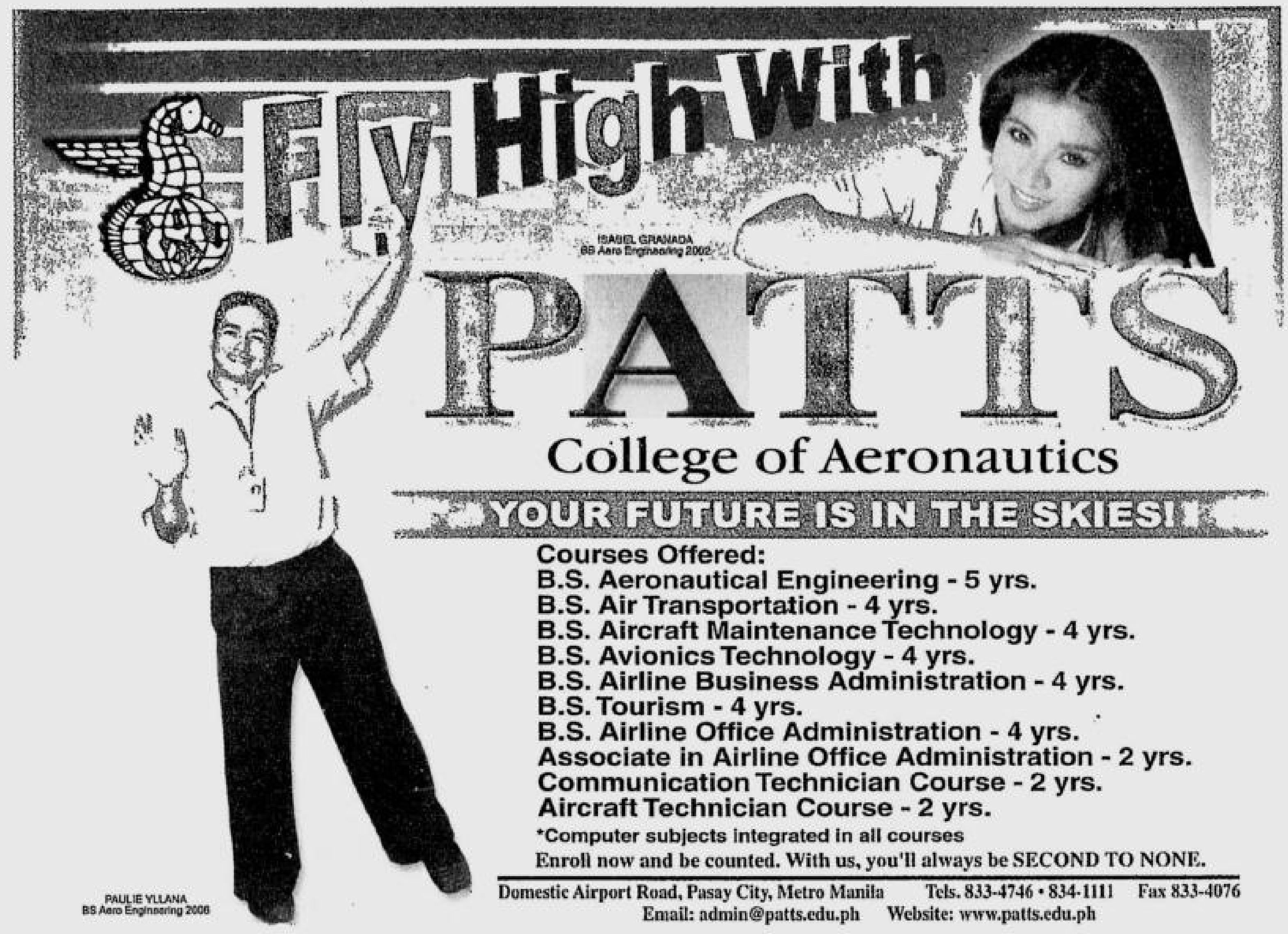
Morales said hindrances could come in the form of military trainers already assigned to military schools and colleges, "because they would not want the PMA corps of professors to take over their jobs."

Morales said a retired PMA professor drew up the measure to respond to budgetary and bureaucratic constraints.

Under present guidelines, the corps of professors' strength has been pegged at 50.

The corps was almost crippled last year by the government's deficit problems when budget officials called for a cut in the corps' operations, Morales said.

The PMA stands to lose 30 professors by 2009 without the nationalization bill, which will essentially protect the PMA from the military's streamlining and cost-cutting programs. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Pressure to ban used trucks hit

THE ASSOCIATION of Logistics Providers of the Philippines (ALPP) has criticized the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) for exerting pressure on the government to stop the importation of used trucks through the Subic Freeport Zone.

In a statement, Martin Noval, ALPP head, said the TMA is pressuring the Department of Trade and Industry to ban the importation and the Land Transportation Office to stop the registration of used trucks.

Truck assemblers, Noval's statement said, have resorted to forum shopping after the Olongapo Regional Trial Court dismissed a case against the importation of used trucks.

Noval said the pressure was aimed at preventing small and medium-scale enterprises from buying cheaper used trucks for their transportation needs.

He said despite the presence of truck assemblers in the country for several decades, small and medium-based firms still could not afford the expensive trucks that they assemble.

"The local car and truck industry, despite three decades of tariff protection, has not lowered its prices. It is an abject failure in as far as providing cheaper modes of transporting goods," Noval said.

Noval said his group avails of cheap, used trucks imported through Subic for about 85-90 percent of its transport needs.

The high costs of brand new trucks, said Noval, contributes to the high cost of production.

"Despite enjoying tariff protection from knocked-down parts, truck manufacturers have not made any effort to lower the prices of their vehicles," said Noval.

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'Lumad' urged to make strong stand against violence

MATI, Davao Oriental—The chair of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples has urged members of the indigenous communities in the province to take a firm stand against violence that has been causing their dislocation.

"You have to decide. If you want peace, then don't be neutral. The problem with us is we wanted to be neutral. It should be clear whether or not we want to support this democratic form of government. If so, we have to accept the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Evelyn Dunoan told IPs here during the three-day Kaimunan ng mga Lumad or tribal summit, which ended on Sunday.

But many *lumad* said they have no choice but to become "accommodating" to government troops and rebel groups.

They said they wanted to avoid being identified with a particular group because experience has thought them not to side with anybody.

But Dunoan said it was important for the tribal people to support the government.

"You want your ancestral lands to be titled but there are terrorists out there waiting to grab your instruments," she said.

However, Dunoan clarified she was not pushing the tribal people into arming themselves against rebel groups such as the New People's Army.

"I never said that the way to peace is to take up arms (against the rebel groups). I said that if you are a fence sitter, nothing will happen, you have to make a stand somewhere. You have to decide on how best peace can be achieved in your communities. I am not advocating violence," she said.

Leaders of indigenous communities in Davao urged the government to declare their areas zones of peace.

Councilor Peter Laviña said among the areas the *lumad* leaders wanted to turn into peace zones are the rebel-infested areas of Marilog, Baguio and Paquibato Districts.

Laviña, chair of the committee on cultural minorities, said *lumad* leaders there were disappointed over the continued disruption of the development of their communities because of armed conflicts between soldiers and communist rebels.

"They share the same sentiments," he said. "Development has not come because of . . . violence," he said.

Laviña admitted that declaring an area a zone of peace could be difficult.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commanding officer of the 73rd Infantry Battalion based in Malagos, Calinan District, said the desire of the *lumad* should be respected. ***Ferdinand Zuasola and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Pattern' shows Cordillera region dependent on veggie industry

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—When pests affected Benguet's vegetable industry in 2000, economists noted that the gross regional domestic product (GRDP) of the Cordillera in that year dropped from 16.1 percent to a mere 2 percent.

The vegetable industry's slow buildup the following year was also followed by a GRDP drop to 1 percent in 2001.

Leon Dacanay, assistant regional director of the National Economic and Development Authority, said this pattern suggested that Benguet's vegetable industry had "surprising effects" on the region's growth.

Neda is monitoring how the massive importation of Australian vegetables and the flow of smuggled Chinese cabbages and potatoes will affect this year's growth figures.

Dacanay said Neda is also evaluating the relevance of foreign-financed agricultural projects, which guided the industry in the last 20 years. Two of these projects—one funded by the European Union and the other by the Asian Development Bank—will wind up this year and next year.

La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, during a rally of vegetable farmers on Wednesday, said the unabated entry of foreign vegetables would soon erode the Cordillera's economy.

Dacanay said the impact of the vegetable market's decline in 2000 and 2001 on those years' GRDP indicated "how infinitely important the industry is to Cordillera economy."

He said the Cordillera economy's high-growth momentum since 1997 has dropped rapidly, despite the initial boost the region derived from agriculture. ***Vincent Cabreza with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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New probe of Cherry death ordered

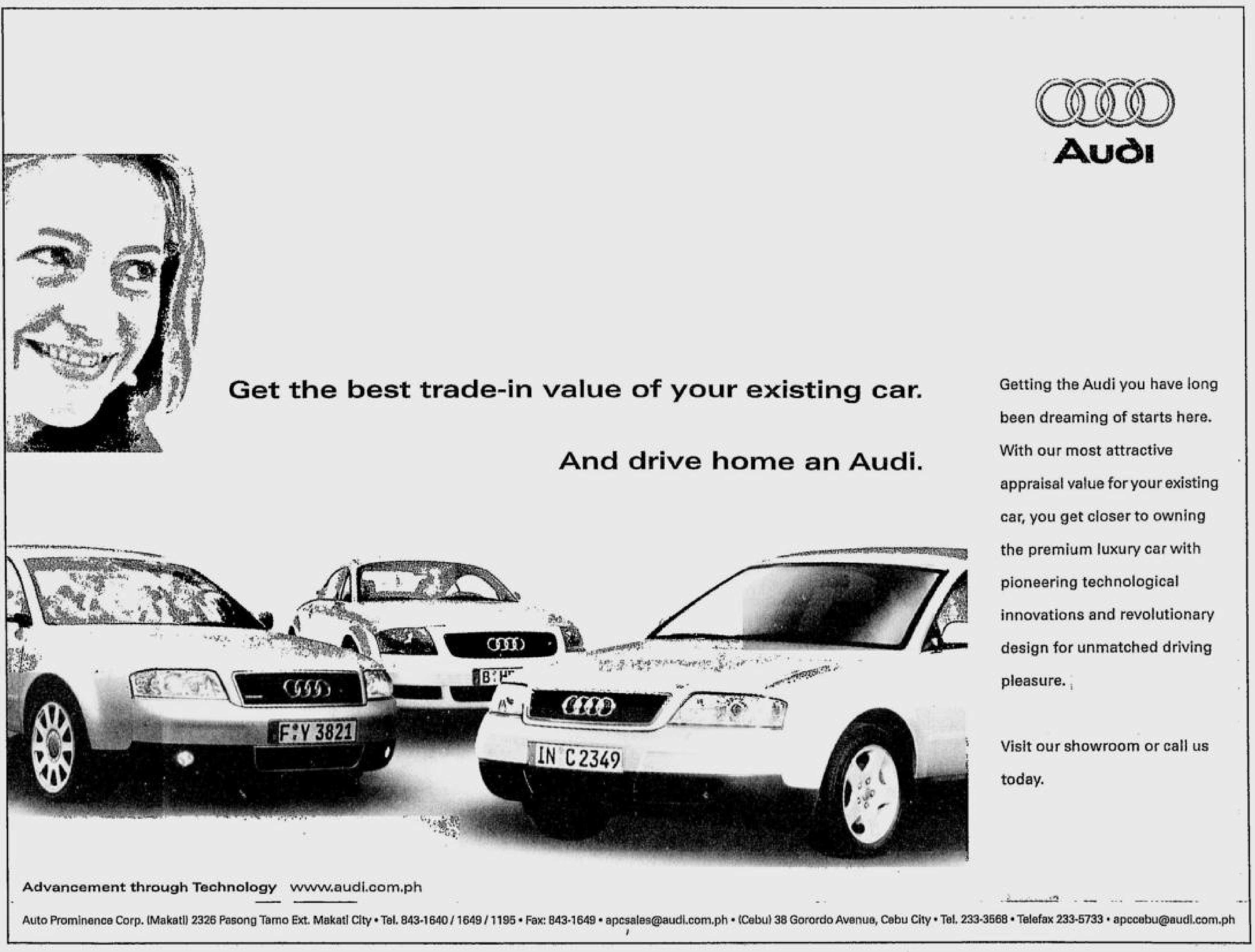
By J. Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7) has ordered a reinvestigation of the controversial killing of a woman who accused a Cebu City prosecutor of having an illicit affair with her husband.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, PRO-7 chief, adopted the recommendation of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division to reopen the case of Cherry Augusto due to lapses in the investigation conducted by the police station in Lapulapu City.

Autopsy results from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Caraga raised the possibility that Cherry was killed by another person and not by PO1 Clementino Dulguime Jr., her alleged spurned suitor.

Autopsy report showed Cherry's bullet wound in the head was most likely inflicted by a .45 cal. pistol and not by a .38 cal. revolver, Dulguime's service firearm.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Palace rejects proposal for emergency powers

From page A1

granting the President emergency powers might not even be necessary. Padilla stressed that Ms Macapagal, as Commander in Chief, can already call on the military and police at any time.

Gonzalez is set to file a House resolution today seeking emergency powers for the President. Yesterday, he said he would suggest that the emergency powers take effect until Congress adjourns its second regular session in June next year.

The Iloilo congressman appealed to the people to "trust the government" as he noted that the government's interest was always to protect its people.

ID system

In Malacañang, Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Jose Ma. Rufino said that what the Palace needed was the passage of a law providing for a national identification system "that is helpful in ferreting out terrorists."

"The President has sufficient executive powers to manage the situation," Rufino said. "At this point, the granting of emergency powers would project the wrong image that things are out of control," he said in a phone interview. "We need the ID system now and that would be enough."

In a teleconference with Palace reporters, acting Press Secretary Roberto Capco also said the President did not need emergency powers.

"We have not reached that stage yet," Capco said. "She thinks that existing authorities of the Philippine National Police and local government units are more than enough."

Asked at what point the President would need emergency powers, Capco said: "It's hard to speculate. I don't want to speculate."

Rufino said Gonzalez's proposal would only invite criticism that would detract from the government efforts to mobilize the people in the fight against terrorism. "We will be pictured to be a police state of a government bent on militarization," he said.

He noted that the criticism against the ID system was unfair because "most Filipinos use a certain type of ID" already, such as a driver's license.

In the teleconference, Capco clarified reports regarding the supposed arming of "barangay tanods" or village watchmen.

Capco said there was no such move and it would be resorted to "only if the local officials think it is needed."

"The Armed Forces and PNP are prepared to provide the training if needed," Capco added.

Intelligence funds

In the House, Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico said the most recent bomb attacks should serve as a "wake-up call" for Congress to "rationalize" the budget allocation for the government's intelligence fund. He noted that since last year, half of the fund had gone to the Office of the President (OP).

In a statement, Suplico said this year the OP got P595.5 million of the entire amount of P1.2 billion allocated for intelligence funds. But the OP had no intelligence officer and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency was just a coordinating body, he said.

With Congress still deliberating on the proposed 2003 national budget, Suplico said it should scrutinize the budget allocation for intelligence operations "because it seems that the President is using her intelligence funds for other purposes," the Iloilo representative said.

The proposed intelligence fund budget for 2003 is P1.2 billion, with the OP getting P650 million or 53 percent of the entire proposed budget.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said there was "no need to be carried away with drastic measures," as he said that the wave of bombings had also seen several proposals to combat it that included the implementation of a national identification system and the passage of a tough anti-terrorism act.

"We should first make an exact determination of the perpetrators and motivation before we evaluate what corrective action should be recommended," he said in a phone interview.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said the people should "prepare to submit themselves to some degree of invasion of privacy and other inconveniences" as the government moves to place tight security control in public places and utilities.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan condemned Gonzalez's proposal.

"By proposing to grant President Macapagal-Arroyo emergency powers and endorsing the anti-terrorism bills, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez just did what's expected from an incompetent government. Why, the only solution to crime and terror that it could think of is to make all Filipinos suspects in the bombing spree," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said. *With reports from Gerald Lacuarta and Agnes Donato*

Bombing hits Zambo anew; Marine killed

From page A1

Secret marshals were first fielded during the Marcos regime and were associated with extrajudicial killings. Early this year, the government also deployed secret marshals in Metro Manila. In March, at the height of the bomb scare in Metro Manila and other urban centers in the country, the PNP's National Capital Region Command fielded 500 secret marshals.

Velasco told defense reporters that the decision to deploy secret marshals was arrived at during a meeting with officials of local government units on Friday, a day after a bomb was discovered on a Laguna-based bus plying a Metro Manila route.

He said the meeting was held hours before another bomb exploded inside a Golden Highway Transit bus at around 10:15 p.m. on Friday near the Balintawak market in Quezon City. Police said that the bomb was detonated through the use of a cell phone. (*See related story.*)

The bus bombing followed a grenade explosion in Makati City, the country's main financial district. No one died or was injured in that blast, but it sent shudders through financial markets, with the peso sliding to a 14-month low and the already battered stock market hitting its lowest level in 11 months.

Five bomb explosions have so far killed 20 people and wounded 234 others in the country this month. One of the attacks killed three people, including an American Green Beret commando, near an army camp in Zamboanga City on Oct. 2. On Thursday, two bombs exploded in Zamboanga City, killing seven people and injuring at least 150 people.

The decision to deploy the secret marshals came on the day Malacañang announced that it would tap the barangay *tanods* as partners in the anti-terrorism drive.

Velasco said arming the *tanods* would be strictly supervised. "We really have to maximize the use of our *tanods* and even security guards due to the lack of policemen," he said. Of the 110,000 members of the Philippine National Police, about 15,000 are in Metro Manila.

Fragments recovered from the bus showed the same type of explosive as used in attacks in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was quoted as saying.

The December bombings killed 22 people and wounded more than 100 and were blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional Islamic militant group with close ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. The group, seeking to create a Muslim state across Southeast Asia, has been blamed for planning attacks throughout the region and some suspect it was behind the Oct. 12 bombing in Bali that killed some 190 people, most of them foreigners.

The bombings two years ago were in retaliation for the government's "all-out war' against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) at the time.

Fathur al-Ghozi, a confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, had admitted responsibility for the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings. Al-Ghozi, who is now serving a 12-year sentence, said he had trained in a camp of the MILF.

Military and defense officials believed that the Zamboanga bomb attacks on Thursday were the work of terror groups, most probably the Abu Sayyaf or the MILF, with ties with the Jemaah Islamiyah. *With a report from Reuters*

Crime . . .

From page A1

that mobile phones are used responsibly.

"Cellular phones have revolutionized our way of life. Unfortunately, this technology is available even to lawless elements who have been using pre-paid SIM cards as one of the principal tools in their criminal activities," he said in a statement.

Lacson said the use of text messaging using prepaid SIM cards had also become a potent weapon for black propaganda operators who systematically spread disinformation against their political enemies.

He said restricting the sale and purchase of prepaid SIM cards could also be an effective way of ensuring that cell phone companies pay the correct taxes, especially at a time when the government is experiencing a huge budget deficit brought about by the shortfall in tax collections.

"A law on pre-paid SIM cards would enable the Bureau of Internal Revenue to monitor the sales of mobile phone companies so it can correctly determine how much taxes these firms should pay the government," Lacson said.

Under Lacson's proposal, all mobile phone companies should require their accredited dealers to get the identity of the SIM card buyer based on any valid identification card with photograph such as a passport, Social Security System ID, company ID or Government Service Insurance System ID.

The buyer would then be issued a receipt or certification that he or she was the lawful owner of the pre-paid SIM card with the corresponding cell number.

The ID presented would be photocopied and would be included in the mobile phone companies' data base of prepaid SIM card owners.

"This would be an effective tool for law enforcers for identifying and locating the owner who might have used the SIM card for illegal activities," Lacson said.

Registering the name of the SIM card owner could be a safeguard against theft of the cell phone unit because SIM card owners merely have to present the receipt or certification to the police. The police would then put in the blotter that the person was no longer in possession of the cell phone. *Rocky Nazareno*

Parking restricted in Palace compound

From page A1

and other pests. Only journalists and staff members of the Presidential News Desk are present in the hall during weekends.

The Kalayaan hosts the offices of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, the Malacañang Museum and the working area of the Malacañang Press Corps.

Beside it is the main sentry house and iron gate where official guests and government functionaries pass through for meetings and appointments with the President.

"We're going through some improvements in security," PSG commander Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said. This measure will ease "traffic" within the Palace compound, he said.

Esperon said the banning of cars in front of the Kalayaan Hall was planned even before last week's bombings in Zamboanga City. He did not say whether the move was in response to the bombings in Bali, Indonesia, which claimed the lives of about 200 people, mostly foreigners.

Under the new setup, vehicles of guests will have to be parked outside the compound, particularly the Freedom Park, which is usually packed with cars.

'Eyes and ears'

In a statement, Ms Macapagal ordered the mobilization of private security guards and drivers of buses, jeepneys, taxis and tricycles in the fight against terrorists. They are people "whose eyes and ears reach deep into the day-to-day affairs of the public," she said.

Aside from inspecting pieces of luggage, bus conductors have been instructed to rouse sleeping passengers and make them conscious of unattended baggage and suspicious-looking people.

Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association, said commuters should remain awake and listen to the AM radio while on board buses to keep them informed of possible terrorist attacks.

"We all have to be alert all the time," Fuentes said. "Everybody is a potential victim."

Bus operators are adopting the measures to prevent a repeat of the bombing of a Novaliches-bound bus in Quezon City on Friday night that left two people dead and 20 others injured.

Hours before the explosion, the operators met with Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, to map out ways to prevent terrorist activities inside public utility vehicles and terminals. The security measures include the dissemination of posters advising the public to voluntarily submit to routine inspection.

Yesterday, tension gripped the metropolis anew after security guards found unattended packages at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa and at Oakwood Suites at the Glorietta in Makati City.

The box found at the basement of Oakwood at around 12:30 p.m. contained coffee bottles, said security guard Michael Turingan.

Senior Supt. Jovy Gutierrez, Makati police chief, said the box, which was later sent to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame, also had documents in it.

At around 11:30 a.m., a security guard found a plastic bag on the parking lot of the Muntinlupa shopping mall. But bomb experts found only garbage inside the bag.

Grenade found near golf course

AN M-26 fragmentation grenade was found outside a popular golf course frequented by tourists at the historic Walled City of Intramuros in Manila yesterday morning.

The grenade was found on the sidewalk outside the Club Intramuros Golf Course at around 8:15 a.m., said PO3 Modesto Pagaran, of the Western Police District-Explosives and Ordnance Division.

The police report did not say if the bomb was covered with plastic or was in a box when it was found on the northbound lane of Aduana Street near the Anda Circle.

"All of its components were intact. It's now in our possession," Pagaran said.

He said a golf club employee, Jose Dumdumaya, discovered the grenade, while cleaning the golf course.

The police are still trying to find witnesses who might have seen the person who left the grenade. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Gov't suffers from serious image problem

From page A1

tion is "imploding," her administration has been snagged in "a drift," she has lost political control and direction, and she cannot control persons close to her who are widely suspected of corrupt practices.

In short, the administration has a serious perception problem, which is hard to fight because, like terrorists, perception is an invisible enemy.

This picture of a faltering administration is drawn from interviews I have made with business groups abroad, with a number of congressional leaders, with some leaders of the business community, and from a series of public opinion polls showing a continuing decline of her popularity. In some of these polls, corruption stands out as the factor that is driving the erosion of confidence in her presidency.

There is an astonishing convergence in my interviews of the perception that her administration is "imploding," i.e., collapsing from its own weight, and losing its credibility to govern effectively.

I have in the course of the interviews heard repeated comments that the President is "politically immature" and behaves like a "brat," a perception reinforced by her throwing tantrums at her Cabinet members and bureaucrats whose performance falls short of her expectations.

And yet, she needs credibility and confidence to combat the specter of terrorist attacks that have already battered the economies of Indonesia and the Philippines.

In my interviews with business groups, some of which have existing economic interests in the Philippines, and fund managers in London last month, they expressed concern over three problems: law and order, weak political control (or leadership) as manifested by recurrent political deadlocks between the Executive and Congress, and economic performance.

At that time, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who were in a road show to attract foreign investment, made a presentation in London to fund managers. Their presentation emphasized the better-than-expected gross domestic product for the second quarter (more than 4 percent). The figures were impressive. Indeed, the fund managers and other business executives I interviewed took notice of the economic performance, which was better than that of most Asian economies.

Bleak prospects

But the luster of this performance is dimmed against the backdrop of law and order disturbances, the political gridlock that prevents predictability and consistency in long-term investment planning, and the ever-nagging question of corruption.

The new wave of terrorist bombings in Indonesia and in the Philippines has terrorized investors as well and has forced some of the resident investments to flee. The prospects for new investments are even more bleak in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

These events are not the fault of this government as these are driven partly by external issues, e.g., the US-led fight against global terrorism.

But they can set back economic growth. They highlight the Macapagal administration's failure to provide inspired and credible leadership that could galvanize behind it the normally fractious Filipinos in efforts to overcome the growing problem of terrorist attacks and criminality in Metro Manila, to stimulate economic growth and to rein in the budget deficit.

The President can ignore at her own peril the increasing signs of the erosion of confidence in her ability to provide strong and inspired leadership. When I say strong, I don't mean the ability to declaim tough rhetoric like "building a strong republic."

Businessmen and even military leaders who pine for strong leadership have already seen through the emptiness of the "strong republic" incantations and her frequent demonstration of an irascible temper.

A foul temper does not make for a strong leadership. Bullying subordinates and squandering the awesome powers of the presidency may even be a symptom of insecurity.

Since the President's State of the Nation Address in July, there have been no major policy initiatives in social, economic, political and security spheres. The dominant political profile during the past four months is alliance building not to strengthen the political institutions and foundations of the republic but apparently to consolidate her position and electoral chances in the 2004 elections. The accent in this alliance building is the recruitment of old political adversaries and the shelving of old political allies, weakening further attempts to rebuild the party system.

SWS survey

A public opinion survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) in September showed that the President's net satisfaction rating fell to 18 percent, from the all-time peak of 28 percent posted in August.

While the rating is still on the positive side, it showed that fewer Filipinos were satisfied with her performance (48 percent) and more Filipinos were dissatisfied (30 percent) than they were in August.

In August, 54.9 percent were satisfied with her performance—her highest satisfaction rating since she took office in January 2001—and 26.5 percent dissatisfied.

SWS pointed to the following factors as responsible for the drop in her popularity: the resignations of Education Secretary Raul Roco and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez (who failed to deliver the desired revenue collections), the abduction of six Jehovah's Witnesses by the Abu Sayyaf, and the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah.

These factors reflect political ineptness in handling senior officials and allies.

In the case of the Sabah exodus, it was an explosion of a long simmering problem with foreign policy implications. Former President Fidel Ramos had a savage drop in popularity over the inept handling of the execution of Flor Contemplacion in Singapore.

EIU survey

The volatile rise and fall of Ms Macapagal's popularity is a symptom of the lack of stability of public confidence in her leadership.

Last month, a perception survey conducted by the Economic Intelligence Unit among 49 chief executive officers of foreign companies in the Philippines disclosed an even more disturbing result.

On Sept. 2, only 2 percent of the respondents said she was doing an excellent job, down from 11 percent in March 2002, 18 percent in June 2001, and 22 percent in March 2001; 23 percent said she was doing a good job on Sept. 2, compared to 50 percent in June 2002, 75 percent in March 2002, 65 percent in June 2001 and 69 percent in March 2001.

Last month, 53 percent of the CEOs said the President was making too many populist decisions, compared with 31 percent in June 2002.

Half of the executives said her probability of winning the presidential election in 2004 was 75 percent, and 38 percent put the probability at 50 percent. While she was the top choice of 46 percent of the CEOs, Roco got 36 percent.

This was a statement of preference at this point, but the CEOs gave a clue of the factors responsible for the sharp drop of the President's performance rating.

No. 1 was corruption, in which 42 percent said she was doing a poor job.

On kidnapping, 26 percent said she was doing an average job, 38 percent below average, and 24 percent, a poor job.

On criminality, only 12 percent said she was doing a good job, while 29 percent said her performance was average, 35 percent below average, and 24 percent poor.

In the survey, peace and order and security problems received the highest points—131—followed by corruption, with 103.

Business confidence

The Business World-Asian Wall Street Journal business confidence index in September shows a decline of confidence to the lowest level since the Estrada administration.

The comments drawn out from that survey include: "The general perception (is) politics has dominated," "It's not very clear where the economy is headed," and "Government knows what the problems are but the grand solutions are not there."

The perception from a wide range of sectors, including the pugnacious NGOs of civil society, emerges that the administration has lost inertia. This is threatening Ms Macapagal's chances of getting elected in 2004.

Perception on corruption is growing rather than diminishing. It appears to drive the looming crisis of confidence in the Macapagal administration.

And the corruption heat appears to be moving close to the Palace doors.

A minute of silence in Australia

From page A1

"I don't want to sound alarmist, but we are living in a different world and something like what occurred in Bali ... could happen in Australia," Howard told Nine Network television before attending a church service in Canberra.

"The possibility of it has clearly been heightened," he added.

Australians, who traditionally feel isolated from traumatic world events, have been stunned by the attacks on the Indonesian holiday island that many considered Australia's playground.

The latest toll lists 103 Australians as dead or missing after the blasts, that killed more than 180 people. Many of those killed were young surfers or sportsmen celebrating the end of the winter season.

Mourners weep

Thousands' of people wearing a sprig of wattle, Australia's national flower, poured into Sydney's Domain Park for an "Australians Together" ceremony—the biggest gathering to mark the day of mourning.

Victims' relatives and prominent entertainers and sportsmen addressed the crowd, which included Indonesians and members of the Muslim community. Many were weeping.

Dozens of surfers on the Gold Coast in Queensland state paddled into the surf with floral tributes, while other people mourned in football clubs and homes across the country.

Hundreds of people gathered on a football ground in the Sydney beachside suburb of Coogee where the rugby league club lost six members.

A candlelight vigil was scheduled at a football ground in Perth, in Western Australia, where a club lost seven of its members.

The body of the first Australian victim to be flown home for burial, Angela Golotta, 20, arrived in Adelaide on Saturday.

Neighboring New Zealand also paid its respects with flags flown at half-staff on government buildings and navy vessels during the weekend, while Britain and the United States sent tributes.

US President George W. Bush, in an address to the people of Australia on Saturday, promised to help hunt down those responsible for the bombings.

"Our country grieves with you, and we suffer with you. And we send our prayers to the families who cry, and we send our prayers for a speedy recovery for the injured," Bush said in a videotaped message.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Australia not to back away from the global campaign against terror because of the attack.

"I hope that Australians will not view it that way, that in some way it was their participation in the war on terror, and therefore we should sort of back off on the campaign against terrorism," Powell told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Union Jack

In London, the Union Jack also flew at half-staff atop Buckingham Palace on Sunday in memory of victims of last week's Bali bomb attack. Flags also flew at half staff at British embassies and consulates around the world on Sunday, which has been declared a national day of mourning in Australia.

"My thoughts and the thoughts of Britain are with the families of all those who died," said Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in a message of condolence.

"It is terrible that Australia and Britain should once again be united by grief. But as we remember with sadness those who lost their lives, we must also remember that terrorism can never defeat the values that we share."

Australians in London, including acting Ambassador Bill Tweddell, were gathering Sunday for a special church service in memory of the victims. A memorial service also will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday.

Reuters

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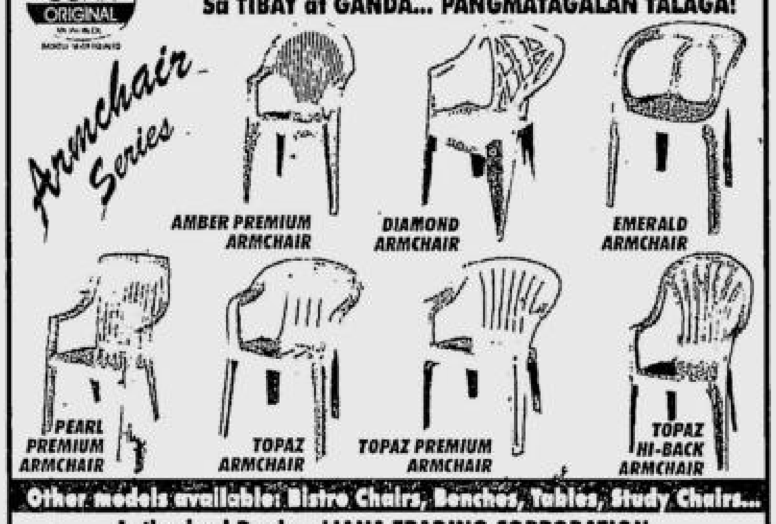

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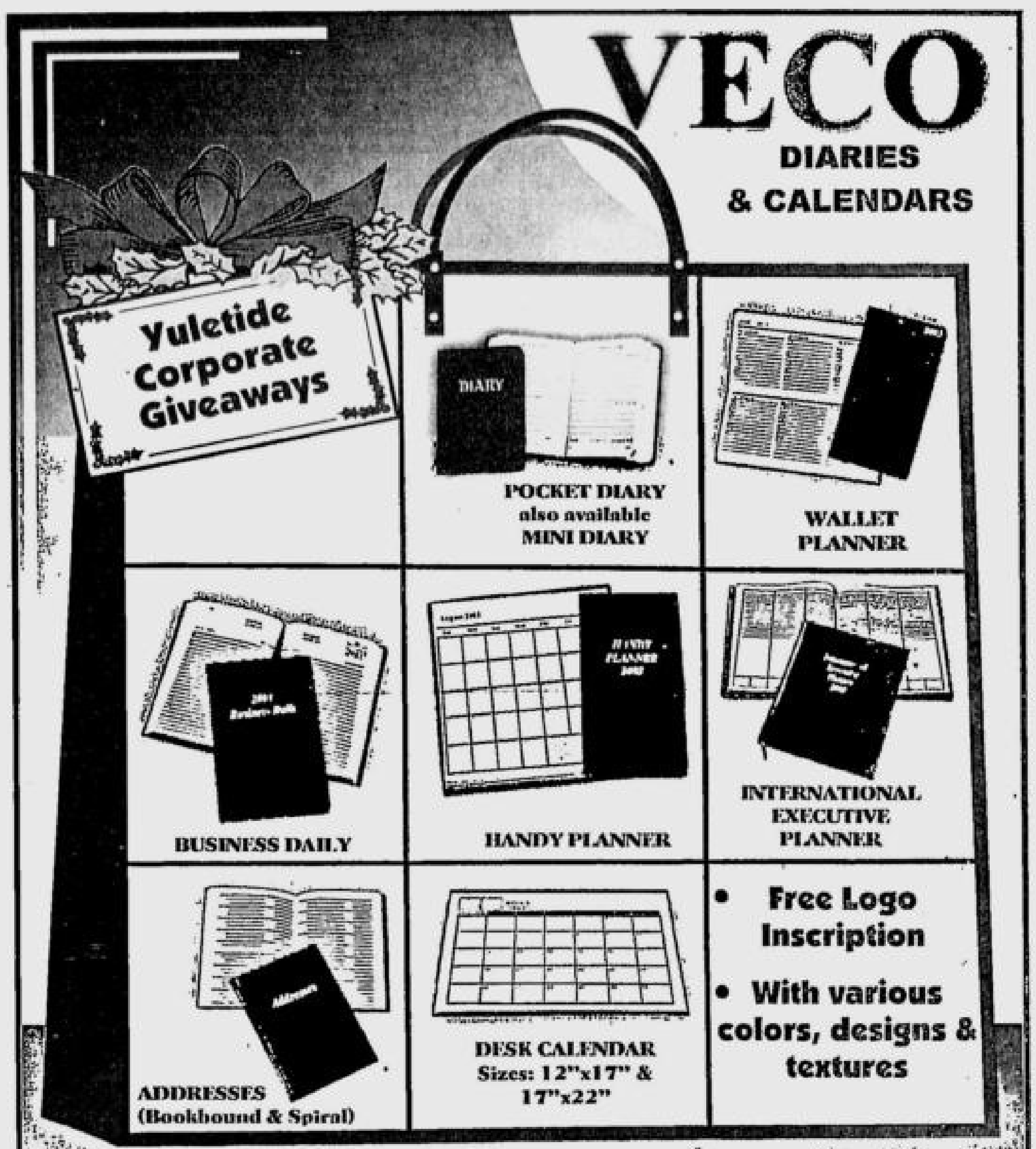
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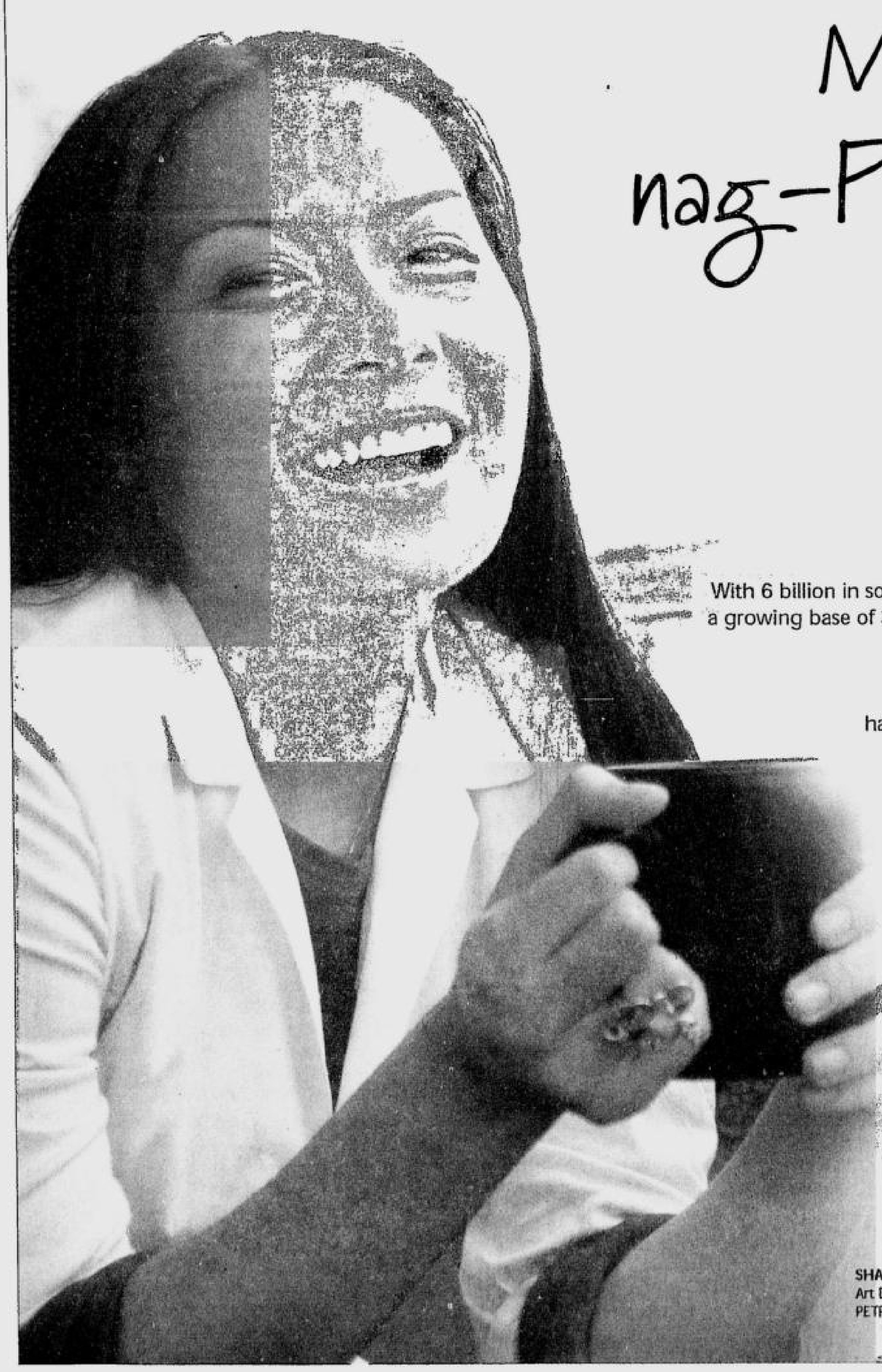

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POLICEMEN armed with M-16 rifles patrol the streets of Zamboanga City after a security alert was raised following several explosions that hit a commercial center last week, killing six people and wounding scores. DENNIS SABANGAN

SECURITY personnel inspect the belongings of passengers bound for Manila at a bus terminal in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Anti-terror pact pushed

From page A1

do the other weekend.

"In her letter, she said that it's now time to activate and operationalize the joint committee (with) the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia," Baja said.

He said, however, that no date had yet been set for the convening of the joint committee on the trilateral agreement "because we have (yet) to get the convenience of the other leaders."

A tougher anti-terrorism mood was also evident in Thailand, which said yesterday that it planned to step up anti-terrorism measures, including setting up a telephone hot line, to ward off potential bomb attacks.

Leyte landings

In Palo, Leyte, even the 58th anniversary of the Leyte Gulf landings yesterday turned into an anti-terror watch.

Various ambassadors urged a common fight against terrorism, with Canadian Ambassador Robert Collete calling it "the new form of world war."

Security at the event was the tightest in years, with at least 200 policemen in uniform and plainclothes deployed throughout the MacArthur Memorial Park.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said Washington and its allies were determined to destroy the threat of terrorism. "Together as in MacArthur's time, our people will triumph together over an adversary that is determined to destroy our freedoms," he said.

Addressing Filipinos, Ricciardone also said: "Since the outbreak of the global war against terrorism, our nations have grown closer than any other since MacArthur's time," he said.

Ricciardone praised President Macapagal for showing her total support to the US-led counter-terrorism campaign through "the promotion of regional cooperation in attacking money laundering, in sharing intelligence information and improving law enforcement against a common terrorist threat."

"MacArthur would be gratified by the modern Philippines' strong reciprocation of the American commitment that he personified," the ambassador said.

Trilateral agreement

The regional joint committee will monitor and implement the projects contained in the trilateral agreement.

"It's expected that Brunei and Thailand will sign and accede in the summit (although) it's still called a trilateral agreement," Baja said.

"(When the President wrote Megawati), she asked that the joint monitoring committee established under the trilateral agreement be made fully operational," Baja explained. He said this would allow for information exchange about terrorist groups operating within the region.

The militant Indonesian group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) has been blamed for the Zamboanga City blast, which killed seven people and injured 152 others. It is alleged to have colluded with the local bandit group, the Abu Sayyaf.

"We need the cooperation of regional states and also the international community in fighting these terrorist acts," Baja said.

Different fronts

At the Leyte rites, Ambassador Collete stressed the need for the nations of the world to be together in the fight against terrorism.

"Countries must begin to work together in different fronts to fight the new world war—the global war against terrorism. Then, we shall succeed," he said.

Australian Ambassador Rose Ruth Pearce said the bombings in Bali, Indonesia, was a reminder for Australia "to protect our freedom and security." Many of the 180-odd tourists killed in Bali were Australian.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who represented President Macapagal in the celebration, said the national government would do its best in this fight.

"It is a conflict that we cannot afford to neglect. It is a menace that must be addressed with the assistance and cooperation of all our allies," he said.

In Thailand

Gen. Vinai Pattiyakul, chief of Thailand's National Security Council, said the proposed hot line would be among actions that will be discussed in coming days, the Bangkok Post reported. He said taxi drivers in the Thai capital were potentially among the best sources of intelligence that could be gathered via the hot line.

Fears have been expressed that Thailand, a prime destination for Western tourists, could become the site of a terrorist attack similar to the one in Bali.

Former National Security Council Secretary General Kajadpai Burusapattana was quoted by The Nation newspaper as saying that the seaside resort of Pattaya was a possible terrorist target because of the high concentration of Western tourists.

More than the usual number of policemen have also been seen patrolling one of Bangkok's most popular nightlife areas, Patpong Road. *With a report from AP*

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ASIAN RACING

RP driver 'Formula' champ

FOLLOWING the gold medal efforts of Mikee Cojuangco, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio Lining, Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista in the Busan Games, Filipino sports fans have something new to cheer about as Enzo Pastor made Philippine motor racing history Saturday by becoming the Asian Formula Renault 2002 champion and first Filipino ever to win a major international motor racing series.

Kenneth Ma, president of the Formula Racing Development Ltd. (FRD), Hong Kong-based organizers of the Asian Formula Renault 2002 Series, confirmed that the 20-year-old Filipino had officially clinched the title after FRD decided to cancel the final leg of the championship, which was scheduled alongside the Asian Formula Challenge on Oct. 27 at the Philippines' Subic International Raceway in Subic.

PASTOR

According to Ma, the decision was made in order to allow some of the top competitors in the Asian Formula Renault Series to prepare for the rare chance of participating in the Macau Grand Prix on Nov. 27.

The FRD received confirmation from the organizers of this year's Macau Grand Prix that they would be holding a Formula Renault Race.

Pastor established a 22-point margin going into the Subic event over his closest rival, Franky Cheng of China, after scoring back-to-back wins in the last two races at the Johor Circuit in Malaysia. All he needed was to finish no lower than third in the final two rounds to clinch the title.

The development, however, made it moot and academic and as a result, Pastor ended with the most number of points in the 12-race series, which was held in China, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Pastor is sponsored by New Pagcor, Casino Filipino, Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, SBMA, Red Horse Beer, FedEx, Nextel, PLDT, Swatch, Petron and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Alta Vista aims to pad lead in Sta. Lucia Tour

CEBU'S Alta Vista Golf and Country Club tries to sustain the big gains it made in the opening hostilities in Davao last month when it hosts the Visayas stage of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2002 on Nov. 7-9.

The Cebuanos managed to clinch Group II and came up with a strong runner-up finish in Group I to share the spotlight with the revitalized Davao contingent of the Rancho Palos Verdes which performed very well as well.

It will be a crucial leg not just for the frontrunning teams from Alta Vista, bannered by such noted amateurs as Montito Garcia and Carl Almario, and Palos Verdes—its compact lineup already sending a big warning—but also for defending overall champion Eagle Ridge.

Though it won Group III through its fifth squad, Eagle Ridge will need to pile up more points in the higher divisions to offset the big charge made by Alta Vista and Palos Verdes and keep itself in the running for a three-peat in the Tour backed by Unirock, Readycon and TaylorMade as major backers.

Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Omega, Kodak, Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific are the minor sponsors, Jieda Motors and Yamaha are the hole-in-one prize providers while Hyatt (Manila), Marco Polo (Davao) and Cebu Plaza are the official hotels.

Eagle Ridge will co-host the culminating Luzon stop in December with Orchard and it may be facing a huge deficit if it is not able to keep up with the torrid pace being set by the southern squads.

James Balagtas, general manager of Alta Vista, said that with his huge delegation showing their determination to snatch the Sta. Lucia Cup, the Visayas leg will be their best chance to get the cushion they need for the final leg.

Rotarians joining Vietnam golfest

AFTER three successful local tournaments, the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) will go overseas when it joins the seventh Asean Rotary Golf Tournament slated Nov. 12-16 in Vietnam.

The RGFFP is in the process of assembling a potent lineup that will be able to come up with a worthy challenge against their regional counterparts in a friendly competition at three of Vietnam's foremost courses.

RGFFP president and CEO Poch Borromeo will lead the Philippine delegation that is expected to include the standouts of the RGFFP's southern and northern legs as well as the special leg played at Mimosa.

Entry fee including accommodations at Omni Saigon Hotel is $711 for golfers and $542 for non-golfers. The fee is exclusive of taxes. Deadline for confirmation is tomorrow, Tuesday.

For inquiries, call RGFFP Secretariat at tel. nos. 721-8896 or 721-0564 and look for Pancho Perea or Erica Alvarez-Pekson, fax 721-8896 or e-mail at rgffp1987@yahoo.com.

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Putting Challenge set

WHEN winning a brand new car for a hole-in-one is close to impossible, organizers of the Samsung Putting Challenge coming off the wraps this week at the Aguinaldo Golf Club are giving local golfers the chance to get it the easy way.

Qualifiers from the series of putting contests in public and private courses would be able to drive home a car not with a shot that insurance firms require to be no shorter than 150 yards, not to mention the elements, the hazards and the character of the green. Hole a putt that should be no longer than 30 feet and the car is yours. That simple.

But to be able to line up for that prize, the Professional Sports Management Group (PSMG) announced that golfers need to join—and score a putting ace—in one of the qualifiers starting Oct. 26-27 at Aguinaldo.

The Aguinaldo stop kicks off a seven-leg swing of the Putting Tour—part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge—also sponsored by TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers. Wave 89.1, Citly Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

The other qualifying legs are at Canlubang (Nov. 9-10), Riviera (Nov. 23-24), Cebu (Dec. 7-8), Villamor (Dec. 14-15), Orchard (Jan. 4-5) and Wack Wack (Jan. 18-19).

Also part of the Samsung DigitAll Challenge, the first major involvement in golf of the electronics giant, is the Samsung Amateur Tour and the Samsung Interscholastics.

BSCP twisting the facts

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MANY people have criticized the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines for depriving Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante of the opportunity to add to the gold medal harvest of the national delegation in the just ended Busan Asian Games by not giving them the chance to play in the 9-ball singles in the Asiad.

As a matter of fact, I was told that even billiards officials in Taiwan celebrated when they learned that Bata and Django were not fielded by the BSCP in the 9-ball competitions. "Filipinos are stupid," they said. Chinese-Taipei won the gold medal in the 9-ball singles.

In Busan, Bata Reyes was entered instead in the 8-ball singles and 3-cushion carom, two events which he felt were not best for him because his chances of winning in the 8-ball singles are slimmer compared to the 9-ball. He had said this again and again several months before the Asiad to BSCP officials headed by Bong Ilagan and Ernie Farardo, but his plea fell on deaf ears.

"*Hindi na naibigay ang* 9-ball *sa akin* (I was not given the 9-ball assignment)," said Reyes last July when he appeared at the weekly PSA Forum with Fajardo and team coach Ramon Ancaja. "*Ang dahilan pala paano naman ang ibang* players *na hindi makakalaro kung kukunin ko pa ang* 9-ball? *Doon sa karambola* (3 cushion and 18-1) *pupulutin tayo sa kangkungan*." Reyes won only a bronze in 8-ball singles and lost in 3-cushion, an event he last played 20 years ago.

Bustamante was included in the team to Busan upon the prodding of PSC chair Eric Buhain after billiards officials had said earlier that there was no place for Django in the team. Still, Bustamante was given only one event, repeat only one event, despite his multipronged credentials. His accommodation was a sort of *consuelo de bobo*. Bustamante could have won more gold medals, more than the lone gold he shared with Antonio "Nickoy" Lining in the 9-ball doubles had he been given more events to play in Busan. Many said that if billiards officials truly loved their country, they should have fielded Bata and Django in more than one events in Busan, including their favorite 9-ball singles.

Why does Bong Ilagan now make statements that tend to blame Bata and Django for not getting the 9-ball singles assignments when they could have asked for it? Isn't BSCP officials and the coach who make the final decision? They should also explain why the Philippines has been expelled from the Asian Pocket Billiards Union, the umbrella organization for Asia recognized by the World Pool Association, which in turn is the recognized body for billiards by the International Olympic Committee.

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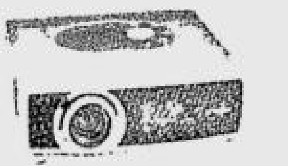
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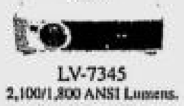
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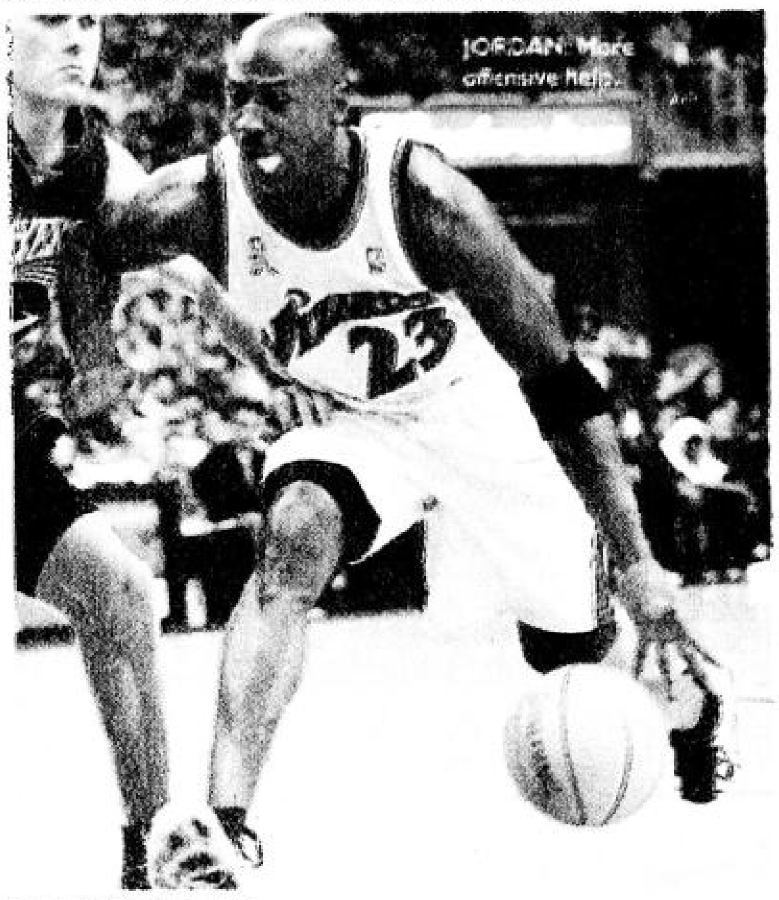
NBA PREVIEW

Jordan faces new challenge



JORDAN: More offensive help.

WHEN the NBA season opens on Oct. 30, Michael Jordan will be entering his 15th season in the NBA. But unlike other NBA players, Jordan's battle is not to win championships (he has six of those) or make history (he has a record six NBA Finals MVP awards). His challenge is to prove that even as he nears age 40 (on Feb. 17 next year), he is still one of the best players in the NBA.

Jordan now relies more on jump shots and pump fakes instead of drive and dunks, but he still showed flashes of brilliance last season and was a leading NBA MVP candidate before his knees gave out after 60 games, the NBA.com noted.

Despite his "retirement" from the NBA for three seasons, he came back to average an amazing 22.9 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.2 assists per game. The Wizards were 30-30 win-loss with Jordan in the line-up and 7-15 without him, and experts say the team would have made the playoffs if not for Jordan's injury.

The big difference this year is that Jordan now has more help in carrying the offensive load. He has a new sidekick in fellow University of North Carolina product Jerry Stackhouse (21.4 points, 4.1 rebounds and 5.3 assists per game for Detroit last season) with whom Jordan now shares the daily morning ritual of lifting weights and eating breakfast (served by Jordan's own personal chef) as he did with Scottie Pippen during their Chicago Bulls days. (Starting Oct. 30, Solar Entertainment will air the NBA games at 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday on IBC-13 and live games everyday on the Solar Sports Network.)

The Wizards have also added veterans Larry Hughes (from Golden State) and Bryon Russell (from Utah) as well as rookie guard Juan Dixon, who led Maryland to the US NCAA championship earlier this year. Their other rookie is 6'11 forward Jarred Jeffries who, as a sophomore, led Indiana to the NCAA championship game where they lost to Maryland and new teammate Dixon.

Washington's interior game remains the same with steady players like Brendan Haywood, Christian Laettner, Etan Thomas and Jahidi White and the addition of veteran Charles Oakley.

9 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that the Seattle Supersonics superstar Gary Payton averaged nine assists per game last season? That was his best assists mark in his 12-year NBA career.

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SPORTSWATCH

RP Ironman set Nov. 30

FINALLY, the Ironman Triathlon arrives in the Philippines. Considered as the ultimate dream of any triathlete, and the supreme triathlon test, the event features a 3.8 kilometer open water swim, followed by a 180 kilometer bike and a full 42.2 kilometer marathon. The race course covers a total of 226 km from start to finish. Set for Nov. 30, the First Philippine Ironman Triathlon takes place in Matabungkay Beach in Batangas with the bike event passing the towns of Calatagan, Balayan and Lian. Around 30 to 40 individuals are expected to join, including 18 who have already confirmed their participation, according to Ricky Ledesma of the organizing First Wave Events, Inc. Sponsors of the meet include Northwest Airlines, David's Salon, Gatorade, Arena, New Balance, Coral Beach Club, High 5 Energy Bar, Matabungkay Beach Resort and Timex. For inquiries, contact Lito Fugoso at 0918-9246299 and 8964544, with telefax number 8956548.

Manalo reaches final

TOP seed Nikki Manalo outplayed third pick Irina Quinatadcan, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to reach the girls' 12-under final of the Alberto Lina Masters Cup tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Manalo, champion in FedEx netfest last week, will face second seed Trudy Amoranto, a 6-0, 6-0 winner over Jia Alesis, when this two-weekend event resumes on Friday. In the boys' 14-under category, third seed Russell Arcilla Jr. outclassed Dan Jeffrey Onate, 6-1, 6-1; No. 4 Daniel Macalino defeated Tomic Apacible, 6-1, 6-3; and Joseph Baldonado downed Jarryd Manduriao, 6-2, 6-2, to earn quarterfinals berths.

Benefit games backed

BURLINGTON, the premiere brand of socks manufactured by Burlington Industries Phils. Inc, has thrown its support behind several collegiate cage squads now playing in the Bantay Bata Benefit games. Burlington has supplied team uniforms, socks and other team needs for the NCAA champion San Sebastian College, UAAP four-peat record holder University of Sto. Tomas and the rejuvenated Philippine Christian University. The Stags of coach Turo Valenzona, the Tigers of coach Aric del Rosario and the Dolphins of coach Jimmy Mariano are all expected to reach the semifinals of the first-ever UAAP-NCAA showdown.

DiMarco retains lead

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida— Chris DiMarco might not be playing golf for a living if not for Skip Kendall, who taught him the "claw" putting grip and rescued his career. DiMarco has gone on to win three times on the PGA Tour. Kendall is 0-for-260. They will be in the final pairing Sunday at the Disney World Golf Classic after DiMarco shot a 3-under 69 in the third round to maintain his two-stroke lead. And don't count out Tiger Woods. Despite a pedestrian 67 on another easy day for scoring on the Magnolia course, Woods gave himself 17 birdie chances and was among 19 players within six strokes of the lead. *AP*

It's Els against Garcia

WENTWORTH, England—South Africa's Ernie Els said he was looking forward to meeting his good friend Sergio Garcia in the final of the World Match Play Championship on Sunday. Els defeated Fiji's Vijay Singh 3 & 2 in their 36-hole semi-final on Saturday while Garcia downed New Zealander Michael Campbell 2 & 1. "He's a good friend—actually he's buying my house in Orlando," said Els, a three-times winner of the event. But the world number three stopped short of describing himself as a father figure to the 22-year-old Spaniard. *AP*

Ladies 9-ball meet slated

A UNIQUE sports event, a 9-Ball Ladies' Billiard Tournament, will be held at Al's Balls & Tables, Aglipay St., Mandaluyong City on Oct. 22-27. Cash prizes and some trophies, medals and cue sticks are at stake in the 1st Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz 9-Ball Tournament. For details, call Junior Angga at 747-7810/0919-2631716 to register.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB World Series Game #2, 7:30 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN
TENNIS: Masters Series (Madrid), 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Disney Golf Classic, 2 p.m., Star Sports
SOCCER: EPL, 7 a.m. and tomorrow at 2:55 a.m., Star Sports, 5 p.m., ESPN
Western Union World Football, 1 p.m., EPN
Spanish Football League, 5 p.m. (r), Star Sports
BIILIARDS: 2002 WPBA Classic Tour, 6 p.m., ESPN

WORLD SERIES

Bonds lifts Giants past Angels in opener, 4-3

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

ANAHEIM, California—Barry Bonds started his first World Series with a trot instead of a walk, and the San Francisco Giants played home run derby the rest of the way.

Quickly making up for so much lost time, Bonds homered in his first at-bat on baseball's biggest stage, sending the Giants over the Anaheim Angels, 4-3, Saturday night in Game 1.

Almost every question leading up to this all wild-card matchup centered on one theme: Would the Angels dare pitch to the most monstrous hitter in the majors?

Anaheim hotshot Jarrod Washburn decided to challenge him, and paid the price.

Bonds flipped his bat after launching a no-doubt drive leading off the second inning, and Reggie Sanders and J.T. Snow later homered to account for the Giants' runs.

Troy Glaus homered twice for the Angels, connecting in the sixth right after the Rally Monkey first appeared on the scoreboard. But with the 44,603 fans jumping around more than the little primate, Anaheim could not quite catch up in its first Series appearance.

Jason Schmidt got the victory, bolstered by 3 1-3 innings of hitless relief from Felix Rodriguez, Tim Worrell and Robb Nen, who pitched the ninth for a save. Snow also contributed a slip-sliding catch earlier that kept the Giants ahead.

The Angels had been 5-0 at home this postseason. Not that this loss will deter them, having lost the opener in their AL playoff series against the New York Yankees and Minnesota.

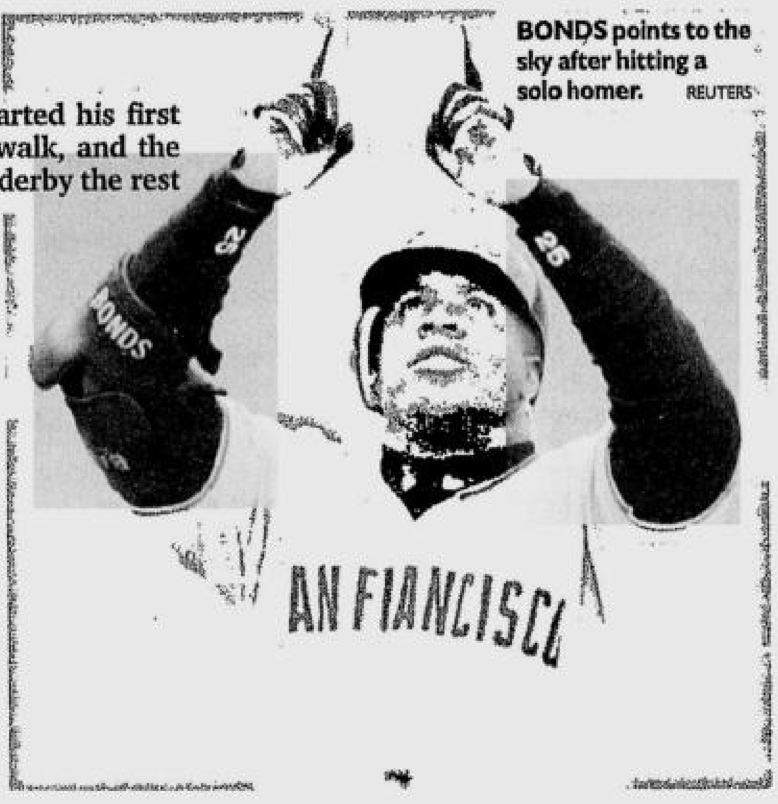
Game 2 will be Sunday (Monday in Manila), with Russ Ortiz starting for the Giants against Kevin Appier.

A four-time MVP, home run king and batting champion, Bonds had waited his whole career for this moment. And he was clearly focused even before the start.

As players on both sides bounded out of the dugouts with big smiles during pregame introductions, Bonds was absolutely without expression as he went down the line.

No one in baseball history had played in more games–2,439–before reaching their first World Series. And at 38 and in his 17th major league season, Bonds wanted to make every swing count–he's already done it in the first two rounds of the NL playoffs, hitting four homers with 10 RBIs despite drawing 14 walks, six of them intentional.

Bonds became the 26th player to homer in his first Series at-bat, the first since Atlanta's Andruw Jones in 1996.


BONDS points to the sky after hitting a solo homer. REUTERS

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Anaheim	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	9	0

Agassi makes it

MADRID—Andre Agassi won the Madrid Masters on a walkover on Sunday as Czech Jiri Novak was forced to pull out with a leg injury without a ball being struck.

Novak's withdrawal, announced shortly before the start of the five-set final, gave Agassi his 15th Masters Series title, extending his record, and strengthened his bid to catch Lleyton Hewitt and finish the year as number one in the world.

Agassi, seeded second at Madrid, moves to within 43 points of the Australian with two weeks left of the regular ATP season, plus the Masters Cup in Shanghai to play.

"It's a very disappointing way for the tournament to come to an end," Agassi said after being presented with the title.

Novak beat Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 6-4 to reach the final, while Agassi outlasted Santoro's French compatriot Sebastien Grosjean 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. *Reuters*

Davenport wins

ZURICH—Defending champion Lindsay denied she was feigning injury when she beat Belgium's Justine Henin to set up a final with local favorite Patty Schnyder at the Swisscom Challenge on Saturday.

Davenport, who underwent knee surgery in January, was hampered by an ankle injury but still managed to beat Henin, 7-6, 7-6, in their semifinal.

Schnyder had an easy 6-0, 6-3 victory over Spain's Conchita Martinez. *Reuters*

Rossi posts No. 50

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia—World champion Valentino Rossi defended his Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix title Sunday and collected his 50th career GP victory when he powered away from Brazilian Alex Barros on the last lap at Phillip Island.

His win here in the season's penultimate race gave Rossi his 11th win of 2002. He'd clinched the season championship with four races to spare in the 16-race circuit. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Wilfredo Ballester clocked 2 hours, 25 minutes, 16 seconds to win the 15th Milo Marathon at the Cultural Center Complex. Also today in 1991, the Philippine Columbian Association beat Camp Crame, 2-1, to retain its Rodriguez Cup ladies' team tennis crown at the Rizal Sports Club courts in Pasig

LGBA derby gets going

PROMINENT gamefowl breeders are featured in a grand battle at 4 p.m. today as the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 1st Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby fires off at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with 70 fights lined up.

Also set today is the submission of entries to the 6th Ucap LCC Leonard 6-Stag Derby, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. This derby is set Oct. 22 and 24.

According to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz, the group has 84 stable members. LGBA was formed in December 2000.

Today's participants include Alex Tang and Nelson Co of Camarine Sur, Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa of Masbate, Gov. Raul Molintas, Tony Boy Tabora and Jay Sobrepena of Mountain Province, Rep. Chito Bersamin of Abra, Eugene Martin of La Union, Alex Chan, R. Tan, Osmond Lambino, Manuel Lui and Romy Dalmacio of Pangasinan.

Backing up the event are Pit Fighter and Red Gel Forte of Lakpue Drug, Thunderbird Enertone, Amtyl 500 of Excellence Gamefowl Specialists and Derby Ace of San Miguel Feeds Inc.

Call 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110 for more details.

Huge field for Cavite tilt

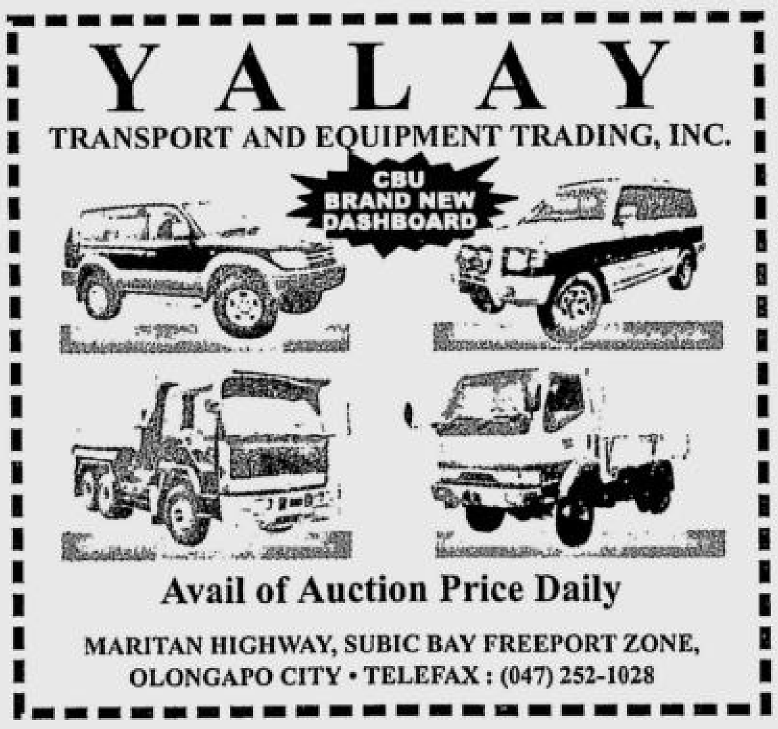
MORE than 100 local and international derby stars are invited to join the 12th Anniversary 7-Cock International Derby of Cavite Coliseum on Dec. 2, 4 and 6. Major sponsors are Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parañaque.

Part of proceeds from this fund-raising sports affair will be donated by host Sen. Ramon Revilla to the Philippine Mental Health. Derby co-hosts are former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and Lito Orillaza.

At stake is a jackpot prize of P2 million while entry fee is P30,000. Derby starts at 7 p.m. sharp.

Included in the cast are cockfighting giants from USA, Guam, Saipan, Malaysia, Japan and Mexico.

For details, call Ferdie Bautista at 0918-5674921.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Express Tour lures top riders

THE AIR21 Express Tour Pilipinas has so far attracted hundreds of riders across the country, enticing even some of the big guns who once made their mark in the fabled cycling tour.

Two-time King of the Mountain Carlo Guieb has decided to reactivate himself from retirement while Renato Dolosa, Southern Tagalog's most celebrated rider in the past decade, vowed to take another stab at glory when the 14-stage Air21 Express Tour takes off next year.

Guieb, Dolosa and RP team standout Victor Espiritu will lead more than 300 riders during the pre-qualifying races on Nov. 10 and 17 in Pililia, Rizal for Luzon aspirants and Nov. 23 in Argao, Cebu for Visayas and Mindanao participants.

Application forms are available at the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31. Call PCAP president Paquito Rivas or Nel at tel. no. 879-4374 for inquiries.

The riders will submit themselves to a 40-kilometer Individual Time Trial challenge after which the tour selection committee cuts down the field to 120 riders.

The 120 cyclists will be further trimmed down to 100 in a 180-km massed start race from Antipolo City to Real, Quezon on Dec. 1 before finally funneling the best 80 riders from the pack after a 50-km Individual Time Trial final qualifying race the following day.

The lucky 80 riders will be known as "The Express Riders 2003."

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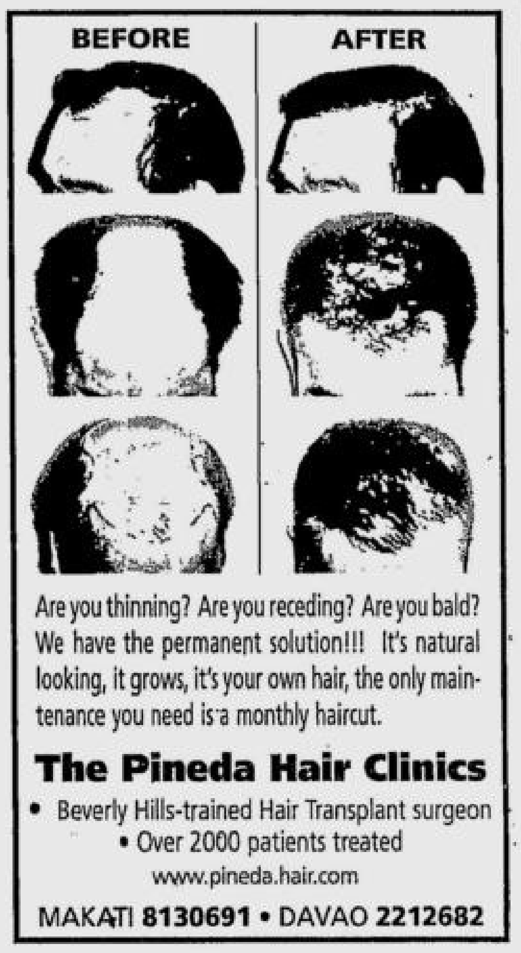
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SPORTS

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SUERTRES 7 9 6
(In exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
4 5 10 28 33 49

Elma's charges join Asian jr tilt

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO tracksters start their build-up for the Vietnam Southeast Games when five upstarts–coached by the legendary Elma Muros-Posadas–compete in the 10th Asian junior track and field championships on Oct. 28-31 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ralph Waldy Soguilon, Marjohn Salanawon, Julie Rose Forbes, Maricel Sibog and Rosel Espinas get their first chance to wear the country's colors in the prestigious event to be participated in by the best young athletes in the region.

All of them were standouts during the National Open and Palarong Pambansa held this year.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, who will accompany the team as a member of the organizing committee's jury of appeals, said the athletes are tall and talented and even managed to compete against members of the national team.

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SELECTA ALL-FILIPINO CUP

San Miguel trounces FedEx

By June Navarro

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola

SAN Miguel Beer restored its killer instinct with the return of its key players from the national squad, swamping Air21-Federal Express, 94-71, at the start of the Selecta-PBA All-Filipino Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen were simply merciless against the Express as Asian Gamers Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros and Danny Ildefonso added to SMB's offensive thrust.

Racela showed no trace of regret as a result of the country's fourth-place finish in the Asian Games as he masterfully orchestrated the Beermen's plays.

Displaying his coolness under pressure, Racela gamely sank his charities midway in the second quarter to give the Beermen a 32-25 lead, drawing cheers and jeers from the crowd.

Back in Busan, South Korea, Racela flubbed two crucial charities against South Korea during the quarterfinals of the Asian Games that led to the ouster of the Nationals in the gold-medal race.

Hontiveros and Ildefonso also displayed their usual form, making up for their nine-month absence from the Beermen's camp since playing for the national team since January.

"Mentally and emotionally, it's really difficult to come back from that Asian Games setback. But the three national players simply brushed these matters aside and played hard," said SMB assistant coach Siot Tanquincen, who took over the coaching chores while Jong Uichico watched intently at the sidelines.

Tanquincen said Uichico is still in the thick of recovering from the impact of the Asian Games debacle and has no definite timetable when he will come back to call the shots for the Beermen.

"Jong deserves a break," said Tanquincen.

Dorian Peña unleashed a double-double performance, coming up with 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Beermen to cushion the absence of Danny Seigle.

Seigle will be out for six months after the 6-foot-5 swingman tore his achilles tendon during the RP team's tuneup game against Qatar last month.

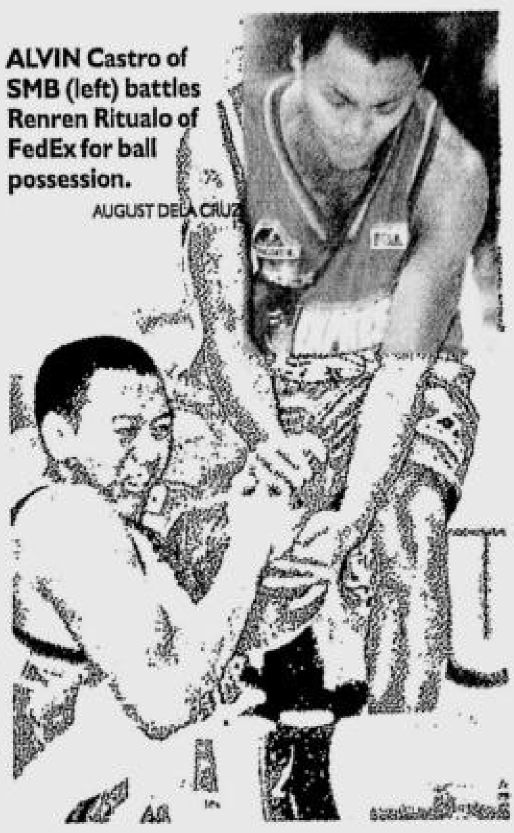
Purefoods cashed in on Barangay Ginebra's rash of errors to register a 71-63 victory in the second game. Kerby Raymundo led a balanced scoring attack for the Hotdogs, who welcomed national team cagers Noy Castillo, Andy Seigle and Boyet Fernandez back into the fold.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 94—Peña 24, Hontiveros 14, Racela 11, Ildefonso 11, Lago 9, Castro 8, Gahol 7, Victoria 5, Mente 3, Gamboa 2.

FEDEX 71—Meneses 19, Ritualo 14, Bernardo 8, Simon 8, De Ocampo 8 Arboleda 7, Realubit 4, Codinera 3, Pumaren 0, Billones 0.

Quarters: 24-15, 45-38, 63-54, 94-71.



ALVIN Castro of SMB (left) battles Renren Ritualo of FedEx for ball possession.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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NISSAN

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ BARE EYE: Mikee's no cure-all and she has one great wish /A27

TERROR IN THE CITY
As far as many people are concerned, this is what the situation in Metro Manila looks like: ugly and scary. For the mask maker, the man in the white shirt, ugly and scary sells, especially for Halloween.

JOAN BONDOC

Police, private groups link arms to fight Metro crime

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has forged links with 16 strategic business, civic, professional and other non-government organization in a "citizens-based" war against crime in Metro Manila.

Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo V. Velasco, the head of the NCRPO, said in a statement that one of the alliances he has established was with the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators (Padpao) which has about 150,000 armed security guards as members.

"The big army of private guards—who work closely with policemen on the beat to prevent crimes and who act as the eyes and ears of government law enforcers—helps solve the lack of policemen in the field and in intelligence gathering," Velasco said in his statement.

Other strategic partners are business organizations that have come forward to help the police in many ways, he said.

Among the business organizations with which the NCRPO has made tie-ups are the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Council of Management, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Manage-

POLICE/ A26

■ Lawbreakers 'scared away' /A26

■ Caloocan barangay election prelude to 2004 race /A27

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Commuter train, trailer truck collide, cause 7-hour gridlock

CALAMBA CITY—A seven-hour traffic jam caused by the collision of a commuter train and a trailer truck stranded thousands of commuters, including weekend vacationers in various natural resorts in Pansol in this city and elsewhere in Laguna early Saturday morning.

SPO4 Feliciano Masongsong, chief investigator of the Calamba City Police Office, said that about 3:45 a.m. Saturday, the trailer truck (PLS-289), driven by Pedro P. Vargas and loaded with flour, was speeding towards Sta. Cruz, Laguna when the Manila-bound commuter train smashed into the right side of the front of the truck on the railroad tracks in the Barangay Lecheria portion of the highway .

The train dragged the Sta. Cruz-bound 18-wheeler trailer for about three meters after the collision, police said.

No major injuries were reported among the truck driver and passenger as well as the train passengers, but the collision caused a monstrous traffic jam from dawn until about 10:30 a.m., Masongsong told the INQUIRER.

A team of speakers from the Parish Renewal Experience seminar in San Pedro, Laguna, who were bound for Victoria town for a speaking engagement, had to cancel their appearance at the seminar and return home due to the traffic jam.

Police were still determining what cases could be filed against any of the parties involved in the incident, Masongsong said.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 21, 2002
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Eph 2:1-10**
Gospel: **Lk 12:13-21**

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your attorney?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story, "There was a rich man and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought: 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' So this is what he planned: 'I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all this grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; tell me who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the lot of the one who stores up riches instead of amassing for God."

Commentary

They probably laughed at that man, so rich. Indeed he fell into ridicule. Once dead, all his riches remained in the new granaries. We guess the mice and his heirs took good care of it. But for him all was useless. He was wrong about wealth. There are many people today who make the same mistake. They think that good dividends come from stocks and business. They have not understood that the authentic benefits are found in a life shared in love and friendship, in peace and reconciliation. That kind of stocks brings in good dividends at the end!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Professional competence of judges—A judge is called upon to exhibit more than a cursory acquaintance with statutes and procedural rules. It is imperative that he be conversant with basic legal principles. Canon 4 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics requires that a judge must be studious of the principles of law, and Canon 18 mandates that he should administer his office with due regard to the integrity of the system of the law itself, remembering that he is not a depositary of arbitrary power, but a judge under the sanction of law. The Code of Judicial Conduct also enjoins judges to "be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence." Indeed, respondent judge owes it to the public and the legal profession to know the law he is supposed to apply to a given controversy. In order to render substantial justice and to maintain public confidence in the legal system, judges are expected to keep abreast of all laws and prevailing jurisprudence, consistent with the standard that magistrates must be the embodiment of competence, integrity and independence. Thus, it has been held that when the judge's inefficiency springs from a failure to consider so basic and elemental a rule, a law or a principle in the discharge of his duties, a judge is either too incompetent and undeserving of the position and title he holds or he is too vicious that the oversight or omission was deliberately done in bad faith and in grave abuse of judicial authority. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Osumo v. Serrano, A. M. No. RTJ-00-1607, April 3, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

EASTERN METRO 'QUIET'

Lawbreakers 'scared away'

By Nelson F. Flores

THE BOMB blasts that rocked Metro Manila over the weekend left more casualties than the two that died on board a bus in Balintawak, Quezon City on Friday night.

Crime was one casualty; the other, the retail business in malls.

The explosions apparently sent into hiding petty criminals like snatchers, holdup men, and even car thieves. No crimes were reported in the cities of Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong and San Juan, according to police authorities in these cities.

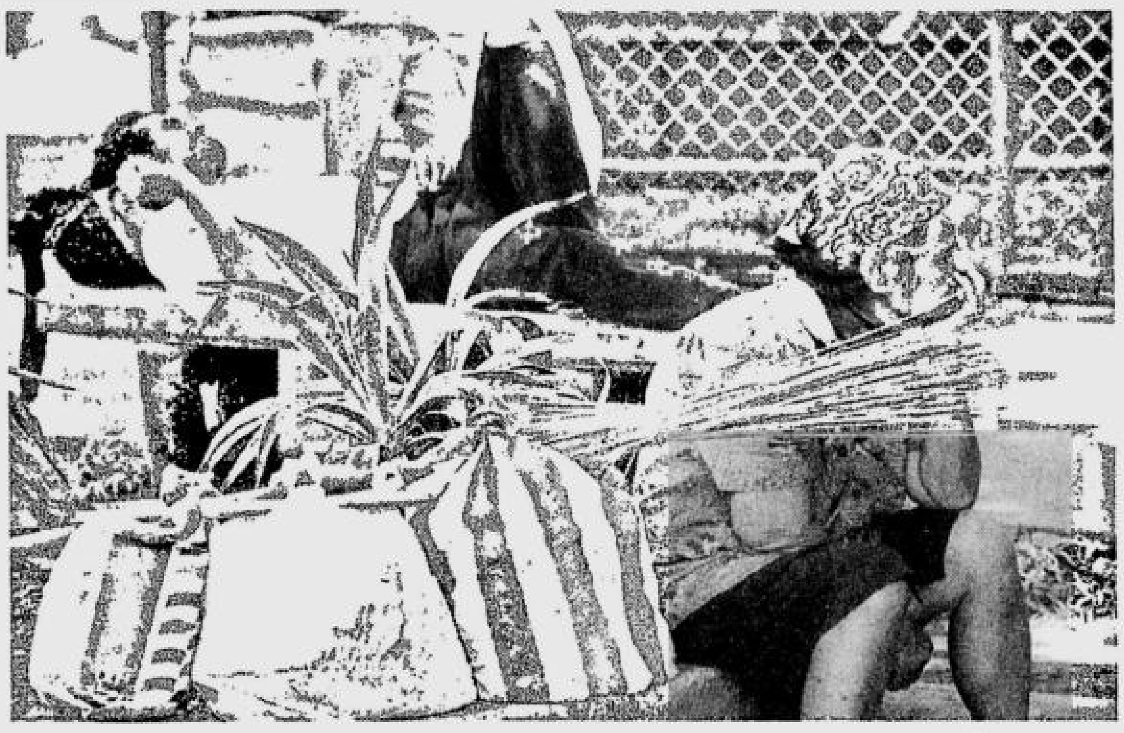
"So far we have not received any untoward incident report but we are on constant alert," said Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento of the Eastern Police District.

But despite assurances from authorities that "the situation is under control" and the presence of uniformed security personnel, there was a decrease in the volume of shoppers in malls, which are usually packed to the brim during weekends.

At the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City where a three-day sale was held over the weekend, only 50 percent of the usual crowd ventured inside to shop. Even its parking building was only half-filled.

Randy Isaac, an INQUIRER sales assistant based in SM Megamall, noted that security was tight at the mall entrances and guards thoroughly inspected the bags of people who wanted to enter the mall, causing long queues.

"A number of our clients were actually reluctant to transact business here out of fear," Isaac said.



STREET CITIZENS
Two homeless people, their earthly possessions packed in plastic bags, rest their weary bones on the sidewalk along UN Avenue in Manila. Even when night falls, they remain on the streets.
ERIK ARAZAS

Review scholarship

MSA Academic Advancement Institute announces its review scholarship program for students in grades 6 and 7. Qualifiers may take the MSA's Philippine Science High School entrance test review program for free.

The program is open to the top 2 students in grades 6 and 7 of all public and private schools in Metro Manila. A qualifying test will be given on Oct. 27 and those who score an average of 85 percent will receive the scholarship.

The review classes will be held on Nov. 10, 17 and 24 and on Dec. 1 and 8 at MSA Katipunan.

To qualify, students must be a Filipino citizen, must have applied for admission to the PSHS or any other science high schools. Application forms are available at MSA, 315 Katipunan, Quezon City. Deadline for submission is Oct. 26.

For inquiries, call 925-7544, 929-9145 or 929-9159.

METROBRIEFS

McDo robbed

THE McDonald's branch in Monumento, Caloocan City was robbed of P200,000 early Friday morning in what police said could be an inside job. PO2 Michael Viray said the branch had also been robbed a few months ago. Police said store manager Lauro Francisco Jr., 34, of Cavite City, reported that he discovered the outlet's vault had been opened and emptied of P200,000 in cash. A .38 revolver was also missing from the vault, Francisco said. There were no signs of forcible entry in the establishment, police said. They said they would investigate some of the employees of the branch, including the security guards, in connection with the theft.

Tina Santos

Cabbie slain

TAXI DRIVER Damian Bug-os, 45, of Phase II, Area A, Lupang Pangako, Payatas A, Quezon City, was killed last Thursday inside his taxi cab. Witnesses told police they saw two men and two women get down from the taxi. They said one of the men pulled out a knife and stabbed Bug-os repeatedly. The four fled after the stabbing, the witnesses said.

Alcuin Papa

Another found dead

ANOTHER taxi driver was found dead inside his Jranzxa cab last Wednesday in Quezon City. Police described the victim as about 60 to 70 years old, fair-skinned and clad in a shirt and denim pants. The victim had been stabbed several times in the body, police said. There was no identification on the victim, added. His wallet and the car keys were also missing. Police said that the taxi driver could have been killed by holdup men.

Alcuin Papa

'Snatcher' slain

THE BODY of an unidentified man, suspected to be a cell phone snatcher killed by vigilantes, was found last Thursday on Batino Street in Barangay Duyan-Duyan, Project 3, Quirino District, Quezon City. Police said the victim was about 30 to 33 years old, clad in denim pants and had "Taga" tattooed on his back. Two Trium cell phones were also taped to the victim's head, police said. The victim had a stab wound in the neck and a deep slit in the throat.

Alcuin Papa

2 bodies found

THE Pasig River in Manila yielded two dead bodies last Wednesday. Police identified the victims as laborer Laosa Pagios, 18, of Romus Compound, Romualdez Street, Ermita, Manila, and scavenger Randy Telactad, 30. Pagios was pulled out of the river along Romus Compound in the morning while Telactad was found in the portion Binondo in the afternoon. Pagios fell in the river while boarding a barge docked at the Romus Compound, said Detective Edgardo Paterno. Telactad's body was spotted by other scavengers.

Philip C. Tubeza

Police, private groups ...

From page A25

ment Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Franchise Association, the Philippine Exporters Confederation, the Philippine Inter-island Ship Owners Association, the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Quezon City Automotive Surplus Dealers Association, and the Philippines Inc.

Rotary International was the first civic group that joined the support groups, Velasco said.

The private foundations that also linked up with the urban police force are the PNP Foundation Inc. led by Rep. Gilberto Teodoro and the Southeast Asia Security, Safety, Health, Environment and Livelihood Foundation.

PNP Foundation Inc. donated most of the new motorcycles now being used by the Metro Manila police, except for those given to the Mandaluyong police by Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Four of the business groups—ECOP, PCCI, Philexport, and Philippines Inc.—had also launched an entrepreneurship and livelihood program in tandem with NCRPO for police dependents in the Bicutan police village.

Velasco also exhorted business and community leaders in the capital region to organize councils of community elders in their neighborhoods to serve as advisory bodies to police.

Gang man slain over earnings

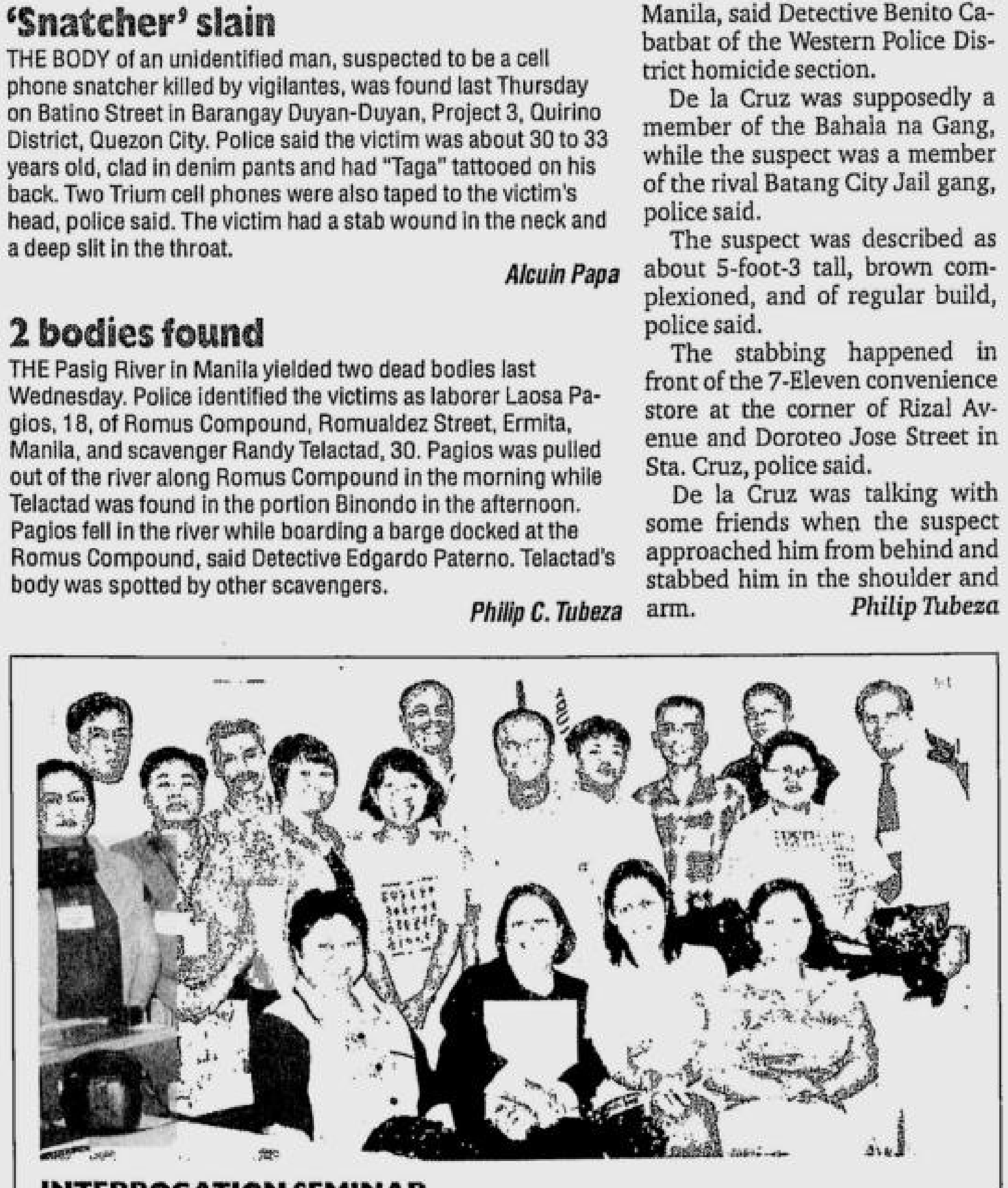
A FIGHT over their earnings as jeepney barkers led to the death of Bunso de la Cruz, 27, who was stabbed by his unidentified coworker on Saturday in Sta. Cruz, Manila, said Detective Benito Cabatbat of the Western Police District homicide section.

De la Cruz was supposedly a member of the Bahala na Gang, while the suspect was a member of the rival Batang City Jail gang, police said.

The suspect was described as about 5-foot-3 tall, brown complexioned, and of regular build, police said.

The stabbing happened in front of the 7-Eleven convenience store at the corner of Rizal Avenue and Doroteo Jose Street in Sta. Cruz, police said.

De la Cruz was talking with some friends when the suspect approached him from behind and stabbed him in the shoulder and arm. *Philip Tubeza*



INTERROGATION SEMINAR
Truth Verifier Systems Inc. (TVSI), a private detective company, recently conducted a two-day seminar on scientific interview and interrogation. The seminar was attended by managers and other key officers of schools and business firms, including De La Salle University, Heritage Hotel, and Abenson. Capt. Conrado Dumlao (extreme right, back row) is TVSI chair.

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Mikee's no cure-all and she has one great wish

THERE'S more than one heartwarming picture to define the happy ending for the Philippine campaign in the Busan Asian Games.

There's also a more urgent message, a big wish, from the expedition heroine that has obviously been missed.

Anyway, shortly before the luminous gold-medal jump of Mikee Cojuangco in the equestrian show jumping event on the last day of the 14th Asiad, a rare picture was captured by an NBN-4 cameraman.

It was that of cousins Danding and Peping Cojuangco, seated side by side, and applauding wholeheartedly the RP effort as though they were working members of the national cheering squad.

It was not a normal frame, swore INQUIRER lensman Jess Yuson who tried to preserve the rare moment through his camera.

He said that, considering the political history of the two men, the rare picture clearly confirmed how sports transcend all possible barriers.

***

The heartwarming picture was a happy stunner.

Of course, nobody could be more thankful than top RP delegation officials who, despite sorely missing their original gold-medal target, returned home pumping their breasts after Cojuangco lent the expedition a rare fairytale finish.

For the record, Mikee's gold came at a time when these officials were all set to offer alibis for another failed international campaign.

As one veteran sports scribe said, the RP campaign had indeed appeared headed for another grand *kalabasa* (pumpkin) award.

How Mikee sweetly and mightily turned that waiting pumpkin into a golden carriage was not a result of mere coincidence.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

OK, Mikee, who may not have washed a single dish through her teens, did not have cruel stepsisters to contend with. There was no ugly, satanic stepmother to brutalize her all day long out in the kitchen.

But take it from Mikee's doting father, former congressman Peping Cojuangco, who confided to newsman at the Busan airport, before Mikee could check in on Wednesday, that his daughter had to slave for her horse in the stable.

***

He was not exaggerating, Cojuangco said, in confirming that his daughter did not only have to bathe and scrub horses. She did not only rub the liniment on her trusted charge. Cojuangco said Mikee had to personally sweep away horse manure (*'sila rin ang naglilinis ng tae ng kabayo.*")

Of course, all these sacrifices were nothing compared to the pain Mikee had to bear whenever she had to stay away from her two kids, including the youngest born in December, in order to campaign abroad to hone her skills and prepare sufficiently for the Asiad.

Oh, don't talk anymore about what she had to spend of her own money, Peping Cojuangco told amazed newsmen at the airport. The $9,000 fee to transport Rustic Rouge from Malaysia, where Mikee had competed, en route to Busan, she took from her own savings. Rustic Rouge, by the way, was Dudut Jaworski's gift to Mikee.

Upon being asked if the Philippine Sports Commission would be required to refund the sum, all Mr. Cojuangco could do was smile shyly and shake.

***

Actually, announced Peping Cojuangco, who had offered to act momentarily as Mikee's spokesman, his golden daughter has one big wish.

It's Mikee's great desire to send the message that all the triumphs were a result of team effort. They all worked as a team, and there should be no single star in the end, Mikee had stressed to her father.

True enough, Mikee, upon checking in for her flight with her husband, did not linger to bask in the limelight. After giving the usual thanks and acknowledging the handshakes, the warm congratulatory hugs, she repaired to an obscure corner, where she stayed and held hands with Dudut until the final call to board.

Here's a very beautiful girl who, after having slaved to give the country a badly needed gold medal, refused to be dubbed the singular sensation or the solo star.

It was all so unreal. But then Mikee, thank God, did not happen to be a distant relative of that former First Lady who tried to buy all the glass slippers in the world.

Mikee is a niece of a beloved former President, Cory Aquino, period.

Now, listen please for this final message: Mikee indeed saved the RP campaign in the Busan Asian Games.

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By Tina Santos

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Malonzo has thrown his support behind incumbent president Manuel Rayos.

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He also accused Malonzo of threatening the leaders that he would have their barangay halls demolished if they did not vote for Rayos.

Malonzo could not be reached for comment.

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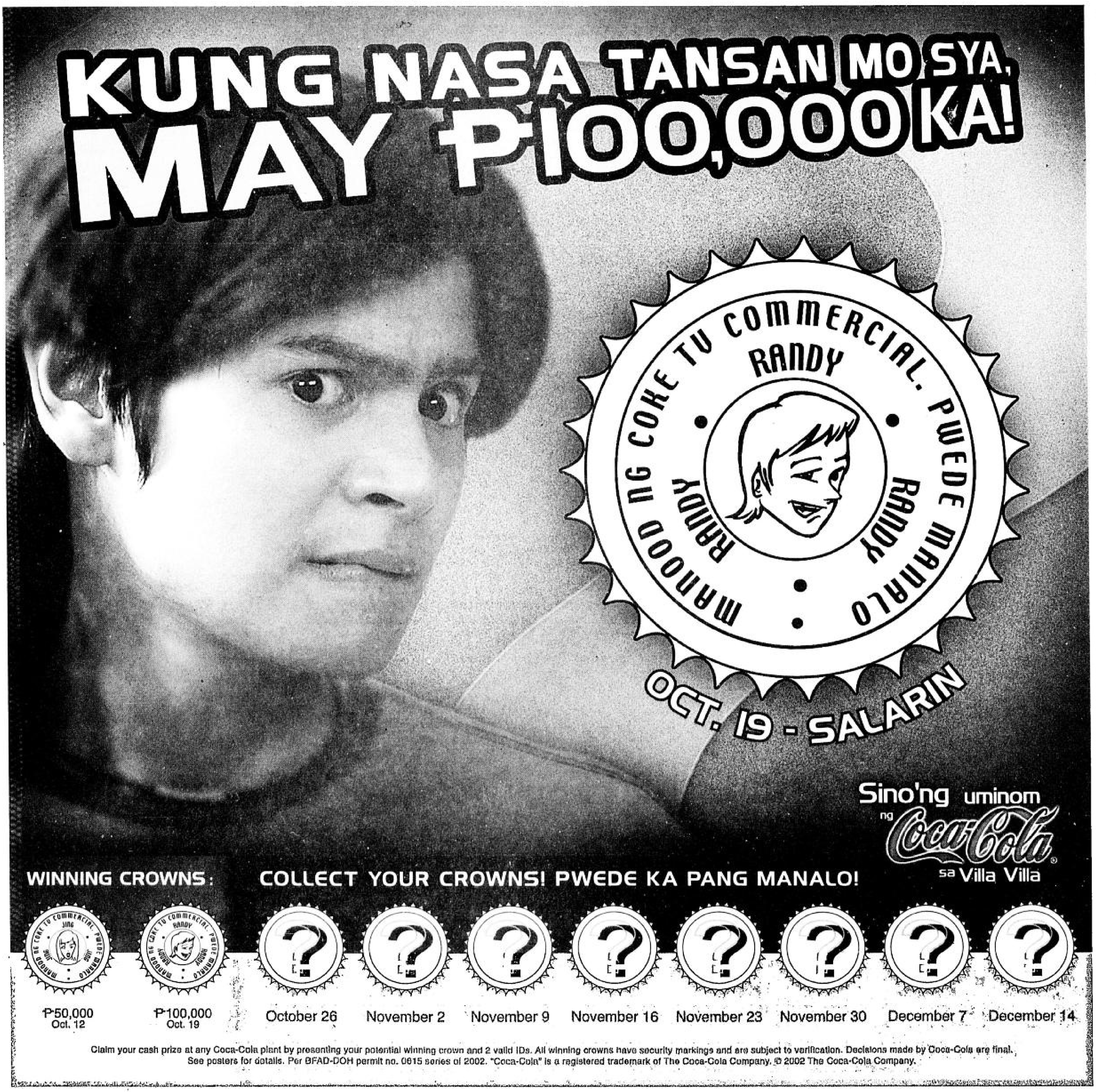

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Mikee's no cure-all and she has one great wish

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE'S more than one heartwarming picture to define the happy ending for the Philippine campaign in the Busan Asian Games.

There's also a more urgent message, a big wish, from the expedition heroine that has obviously been missed.

Anyway, shortly before the luminous gold-medal jump of Mikee Cojuangco in the equestrian show jumping event on the last day of the 14th Asiad, a rare picture was captured by an NBN-4 cameraman.

It was that of cousins Danding and Peping Cojuangco, seated side by side, and applauding wholeheartedly the RP effort as though they were working members of the national cheering squad.

It was not a normal frame, swore INQUIRER lensman Jess Yuson who tried to preserve the rare moment through his camera.

He said that, considering the political history of the two men, the rare picture clearly confirmed how sports transcend all possible barriers.

***

The heartwarming picture was a happy stunner.

Of course, nobody could be more thankful than top RP delegation officials who, despite sorely missing their original gold-medal target, returned home pumping their breasts after Cojuangco lent the expedition a rare fairytale finish.

For the record, Mikee's gold came at a time when these officials were all set to offer alibis for another failed international campaign.

As one veteran sports scribe said, the RP campaign had indeed appeared headed for another grand *kalabasa* (pumpkin) award.

How Mikee sweetly and mightily turned that waiting pumpkin into a golden carriage was not a result of mere coincidence.

OK, Mikee, who may not have washed a single dish through her teens, did not have cruel stepsisters to contend with. There was no ugly, satanic stepmother to brutalize her all day long out in the kitchen.

But take it from Mikee's doting father, former congressman Peping Cojuangco, who confided to newsman at the Busan airport, before Mikee could check in on Wednesday, that his daughter had to slave for her horse in the stable.

He was not exaggerating. Cojuangco said, in confirming that his daughter did not only have to bathe and scrub horses. She did not only rub the liniment on her trusted charge. Cojuangco said Mikee had to personally sweep away horse manure ("*sila rin ang naglilinis ng tae ng kabayo.*")

Of course, all these sacrifices were nothing compared to the pain Mikee had to bear whenever she had to stay away from her two kids, including the youngest born in December, in order to campaign abroad to hone her skills and prepare sufficiently for the Asiad.

Oh, don't talk anymore about what she had to spend of her own money, Peping Cojuangco told amazed newsmen at the airport. The $9,000 fee to transport Rustic Rouge from Malaysia, where Mikee had competed, en route to Busan, she took from her own savings. Rustic Rouge, by the way, was Dudut Jaworski's gift to Mikee.

Upon being asked if the Philippine Sports Commission would be required to refund the sum, all Mr. Cojuangco could do was smile shyly and shake.

***

Actually, announced Peping Cojuangco, who had offered to act momentarily as Mikee's spokesman, his golden daughter has one big wish.

It's Mikee's great desire to send the message that all the triumphs were a result of team effort. They all worked as a team, and there should be no single star in the end, Mikee had stressed to her father.

True enough, Mikee, upon checking in for her flight with her husband, did not linger to bask in the limelight. After giving the usual thanks and acknowledging the handshakes, the warm congratulatory hugs, she repaired to an obscure corner, where she stayed and held hands with Dudut until the final call to board.

Here's a very beautiful girl who, after having slaved to give the country a badly needed gold medal, refused to be dubbed the singular sensation or the solo star.

It was all so unreal. But then Mikee, thank God, did not happen to be a distant relative of that former First Lady who tried to buy all the glass slippers in the world.

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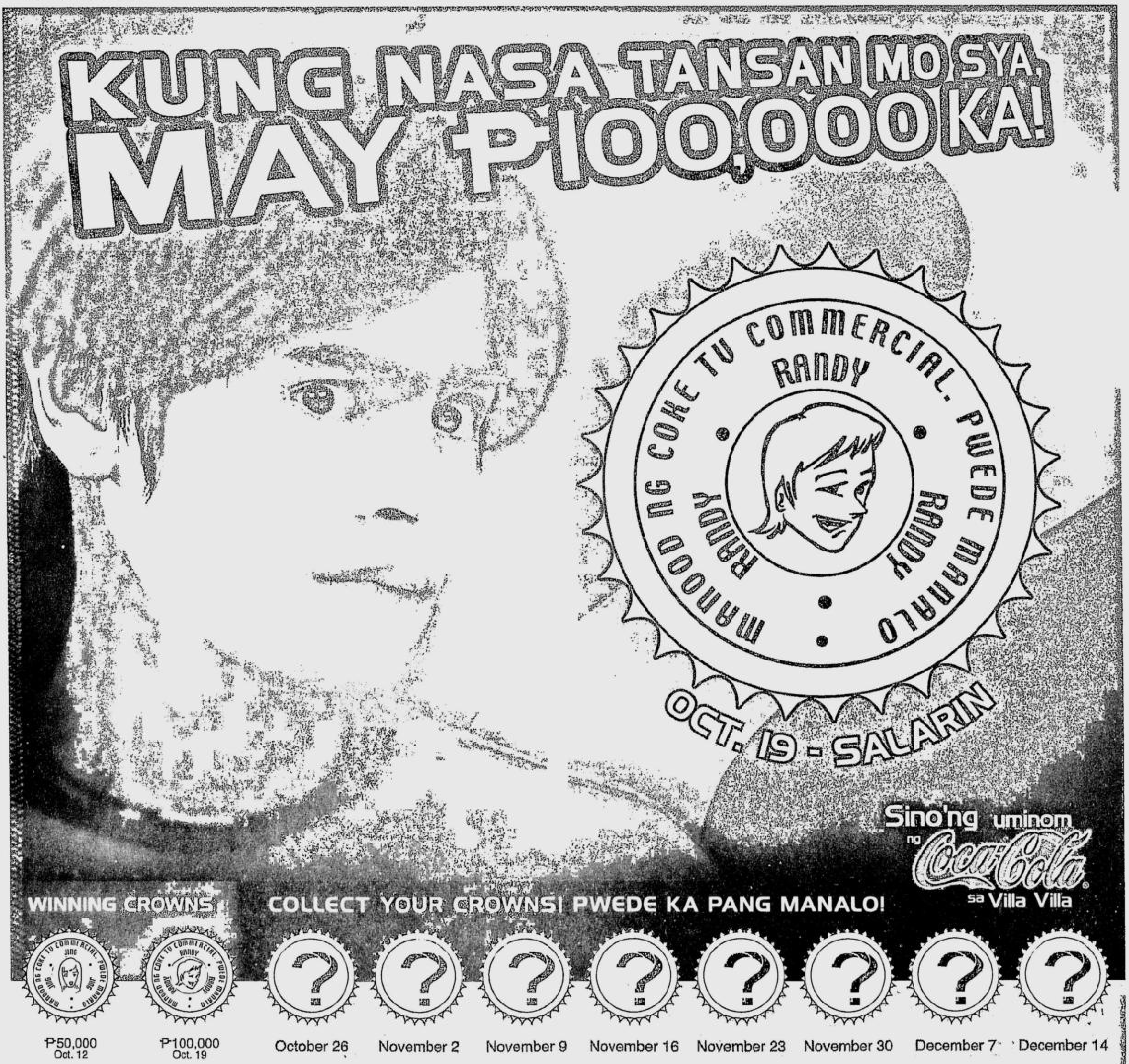

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Destiny questions 'unfair' treatment by Star TV

By Marinel R. Cruz

DESPITE the recent pull-out of five Star TV Asia programs, Destiny Cable subscribers can still watch good-quality programs this holiday season, according to Destiny Cable Inc. officials.

Sports enthusiasts, who are worried they might not be able to watch the National Basketball Association (NBA) games when it opens its new season in November, might still catch the games on television, too, if Destiny can help it.

Destiny on Oct. 15 stopped airing sports network ESPN, the National Geographic, and the three Star channels—Star Movies, Star Sports, and Star World—after program provider Star TV Asia decided not to renew its contract with Destiny this year.

Destiny questions the "unethical and unfair treatment we have received from Star TV," said Destiny Cable spokesperson Beda Mañalac.

"It is the right of Filipino viewers to be given a good choice," he said. "We must not tolerate monopoly and exclusivity."

He said Destiny received a letter from Star TV regional director Charles Pollard on Oct. 4 informing Destiny that it would have to stop airing five Star TV channels after the end of their contract on Oct. 14.

. Though Destiny was considering an amicable settlement of the issue with Star TV, Mañalac said "there are other cable providers who can supply us the NBA games. Destiny is working on this right now."

Mañalac said Star TV did not renew its contract with Destiny when it expired last August but extended it on a monthly basis. "Star gave no explanation for the cancellation of the contract but merely said it was cutting us off this month," he said.

"Our goal is to keep our subscribers," he added. "We hope to be able to do this by coming up with more premium programs from other foreign cable providers.

"We feel we will be able to satisfy sports fans with alternative sports programs. The shows will be really good."

Destiny Cable senior manager for marketing and media services Richard Rodriguez said Destiny is working up a deal with UK's longest running sports channel, Eurosport, for the airing of some of its exclusive sports event and sports news. Eurosport, much like ESPN, airs football, baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis, cycling rugby and golf.

Cable providers Sky Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Holdings Corp. last year were forced to drop 10 Star Asia TV programs after the content provider allegedly demanded outrageous programming fees.

Star TV also ordered SkyCable and Home Cable to settle their outstanding debt of $3.1 million.

"The big difference is that SkyCable and Home owe Star TV a huge amount of money," Mañalac said. "Destiny, for the past six years, never failed to pay its dues."

Rodriguez said Destiny benefited from Star TV's pull-out from its rivals SkyCable and Home Cable last October 2001, and earned an increase of 15 to 20 percent in the number of its subscribers. "But Destiny was experiencing a growth trend at that time," he said.

Destiny is a 100-percent Filipino venture owned by the Solid Group Inc. of businesswoman Elena Lim. Her son David is Destiny Cable president.

The Power of TV ads

WE'VE SEEN how commercials can catapult complete unknowns into instant stardom.

Gabby Concepcion, Alice Dixson, the late Rico Yan, Cogie Domingo, and, more recently, Heart Evangelista, are only a few of those who at one moment were mere fresh and pretty faces and the next moment were big stars and household names, thanks to the power of commercials.

One brand holds a record of sorts in bringing new faces into the public eye. Rexona, through more than 20 years of TV commercials, has introduced the likes of Donna Villa, Cesar Montano, Carlos Agassi, Ryan Agoncillo, Bojo Molina, Tanya Garcia, Daniel Barrios, Michi Valeriano, Julia Clarete, Alya Parcs, Cogie and Heart.

Rexona's most recent TV ad is doing it again. The new ad is bringing near-icon status to five young, buff, goodlooking guys.

UNKNOWN TO ICONS. Power Boys (from left) Frank Garcia, Jay Salas, Greg Martin, Jordan Herrera and Geff Rodriguez.

From being known as Rexona Boys, they are now called the Power Boys: Greg Martin and Jay Salas, both 21, Geff Rodriguez and Jordan Herrera, both 19, and Frank Garcia, 18.

The now-famous TV commercial where they were half-dressed, or half-naked, brought them instant popularity. Broadcast giant ABS-CBN has taken them under its wings and has put them through an intensive training program. All five quit school for now to be able to accommodate their new schedule.

"It's definitely grueling, but we're not complaining," says New York-bred Greg.

Jay, who made 10 commercial before Rexona, describes this sudden yet welcome change as an opportunity of a lifetime.

Geff considers his new lifestyle a blast, "definitely less harassing" than his life as a working student in Sydney, Australia.

Jordan has done a sexy movie and is enjoying the adulation of the masses on the noontime show "MTB."

And Frank, very visible in the fashion scene in the past four years, is amazed at the perks the shift to TV offers—from lots of free clothes, shoes and accessories, to free use of exclusive fitness facilities.

Long-term career prospects are not quite clear yet, although there are plans for a film project and a CD for the group.

The Rexona boys are definitely getting a lot of power .

'Batang Trapo' wins French prize

AFTER Raymond Red's triumph with a Pal d'Or for "Anino" in Cannes 200, it's Mes de Guzman's turn as his "Batang Trapo" won the Etoile d'Or in the recent international film festival in Marrakech.

When "Batang Trapo" won the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema at the 3rd Cinemanila, the French Embassy invited de Guzman to attend the screening of his first film at the most important international short film fest, in Clermont-Ferrand, France. "Batang Trapo" was shown to an audience of film professionals and critics.

Since 2000, the French Embassy has sent Filipino films to France for selection or to participate in different festivals, includng the Asian film festival in Deauville, the short film festival in Clermont-Ferrand, the Autumn Festival in Paris, the animation film festival in Annecy, and the prestigious Cannes.

The French Embassy in Manila says it looks forward to introducing more Filipino works to the worldwide network of international film festivals and markets.

'Mama Mia!': The winner takes it all

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NEW YORK—The story of the Broadway musical "Mama Mia" may be as cheesy as a Mexican telenovela, but the audience apparently looks beyond that.

At the Winter Cadillac Theater on 50th Street, the new musical based on the hits of the pop group Abba consistently draws huge crowds, whether it's a matinee or an evening show.

"Mama Mia" was highly recommended by INQUIRER Sports editor **Al Mendoza**, who watched it on Broadway early this year. I vowed that in my next trip to New York, I would not pass up the chance to see it.

Since it's a new musical, no discounted tickets to "Mama Mia" are available at the TKTS Booth in Times Square. "Mama Mia" tickets fetch as high as $98 a piece. You'd be lucky if you could get lower-priced tickets for the balcony and boxes or for matinee shows. But I was told at the box office that it's always a sold-out production, whether it's an afternoon or evening performance.

A sixtysomething Filipina who lined up to buy tickets the day I also queued at the box office, rued that she had been trying to get seats to any evening show of "Mama Mia," but to no avail.

Thank heaven for matinee performances, I was able to secure tickets.

"Mama Mia" does not boast of spectacular effects like "Phantom of the Opera," "Beauty and the Beast" or "Lion King." It doesn't have awesome props, either, like the helicopter or the shiny Cadillac in "Miss Saigon."

More than 20 hits of Abba (written by **Benny Andersson** and **Bjorn Ulvaeus**) woven into a romantic story with book by **Catherine Johnson** are enough to capture the audience from beginning to end.

Enthusiastic

The audience was composed predominantly of fans from the '70s who know Abba's music by heart. From one production number to another, they were evidently enthralled, so by the time the whole ensemble did an encore of "Dancing Queen," the people in the audience were up on their feet.

That song also got the most enthusiastic response in the whole musical.

"Mama Mia" is set on a Greek island where a wedding is set to take place. It opens with the song "I Have A Dream" and the audience meets young bride Sophie, who is very confused trying to find out who her real father is.

After getting hold of the journal of her single mom Donna, Sophie invites her mother's three lovers to her wedding day without, of course, the knowledge of Donna. Curiously enough, not even Donna could tell Sophie who her real father is. And she herself is as restless as her daughter when she sees the three men who made her heart throb in separate instances.

It is amusing how the three guys recall their romance with Donna. It turns out she is still passionately in love with one of them even after they've been separated by distance and 20 years. Where will their romance bring them?

No revival

Abba songs like "Chiquitita," "Thank You for the Music," "Money, Money, Money," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Take a Chance on Me" and "The Winner Takes It All" blend well and become part of the story. The dialogue is punctuated by witty one-liners.

There is no pressure on the production team to surpass or equal a predecessor, since "Mama Mia" is not a revival like "The King and I" or "Flower Drum Song." The latter was revived on Broadway only last week, with **Lea Salonga** in the lead.

"Mama Mia" also does not need a dramatic score since the hits of Abba and the group's worldwide popularity precede the musical.

During the "Dancing Queen" encore, my seatmates and I were among those who got up and danced.

There are production numbers done in true Abba fashion, with glittering and colorful '70s outfits, like when Donna and her two friends recall their early days together by singing "Super Trouper."

Familiar

The ensemble singing and dancing in "Voulez Vous" and "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!" are also highlights of the musical.

I've never been an ardent Abba fan, but I am absolutely familiar with the songs of the popular group. The music was enough to make me appreciate "Mama Mia."

My seatmate, **Shirley Matias-Pizarro**, remarked that a production like "Mama Mia" could also be presented in Manila since the musical doesn't need elaborate or high-tech props. Indeed, we were already "casting" Filipino artists while we were watching on Broadway.

Theater director **Bobby Garcia** and his Atlantis Productions instantly came to mind. But then, "Mama Mia" is not Bobby's kind of theater. He has directed "Rent," "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "Proof" "Tick, Tick Boom" and is also behind the upcoming "The Rocky Horror Show."

Perhaps, Bobby could give it a thought and consider bringing to Manila one of the latest bestsellers on Broadway.

ABBA

Martin's 'Never Say Goodbye' greets hit charts

MARTIN Nievera

SAY HELLO to Martin Nievera's newest hit, "Never Say Goodbye," written by no less than R&B superstar Brian McKnight.

The song is one of the highlights of Martin's latest album, "Chasing Time," on MCA Universal's OPM label, Polyeast Records.

The new has already reached the golden mark (15,000 copies sold) in the first week of October alone, according to MCA Universal.

Brian McKnight wrote "Never Say Goodbye" after he and Martin met on the latter's "Martin Late @ Nite" on ABS-CBN.

Impressed with Martin's style, Brian promised—on the air—to contribute several songs to the Filipino singer's album.

For starters, Brian invited Martin to do a duet with him, "Thank You for Saving My Life," which was included in Brian's repackaged album, "Superhero," also from MCA Universal Music.

For "Chasing Time," Brian also wrote two more selections, "Over" and "All the Way."

"Never Say Goodbye," like all of Martin's hits, is expected to be a favorite in singing contests and karaoke bars.

"Chasing Time" is Martin's 20th anniversary album. It also includes the compositions of the country's most sought-after songwriters such as Moy Ortiz, Edith Gallardo, Louie Ocampo, George Canseco and Ben Escasa, plus the works of upcoming tunemakers Ricky Sanchez and Hawaii-based Andrei Estrada.

The new album also includes two of Martin's music videos, "Never Say Goodbye" and "Can't Stop This Christmas." The latter won the 2002 Awit award for best Christmas recording.

Just like in his previous albums, Martin was hands-on in the preparation of the repertoire.

Also in "Chasing Time" are "Isang Saglit, Isang Sandali" (Ortiz-Gallardo), "True Love" (Ben Escasa-Deng Escasa-Nievera), "Love is Stronger Far Than We" (Chuck Mangione), "Love" (Randy Goodrum), "Nasaan Ka Man" (Canseco-Ocampo), "Habang Ikaw ay Narito" (Sanchez), and the title track by Ocampo and Nievera.

Last Oct. 13, a Sunday, Martin received a gold record award for "Chasing Time." The awarding was seen on national television, on the live telecast of the Sunday noontime show, "ASAP" on ABS-CBN.

"Chasing Time" for Martin celebrates 20 years of songs, laughter, sweat and tears. For Martin, too, it is a dream come true to be able to share with listeners his heart and soul in every note and every beat of his songs.

A special pictorial with top photographer Jun de Leon was held at the Montemar Beach Resort to capture on the album cover the mood of the music in "Chasing Time."

As part of Martin's 20th anniversary, Smart Communications is giving free copies of the limited-edition "Chasing Time" VCD to those who will swap their old SIMs for the Smart64K super SIM at selected SM malls during the album launch mall tour that started yesterday.

Fans can also tun in to Wave 89.1, RX 93.1, Magic 89.9 and 93.9 iFM for more of the Smart 64K super SIM swap.

'Tesis:' Violence and human curiosity

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

MACABRE. Anna Torrent and Fele Martinez star in Alejandro Amenabar's "Tesis."

SPANISH movies, in general, have been a pleasure to behold on the TVE Channel, regardless of the lack of valuable subtitles.

They're very visual and unencumbered by oppressive censoring systems, which means that a very gritty and inspiring world outside of American movies exists. Some immensely talented filmmakers and actors have made names for themselves with even just a handful of credits in that arena.

Writer-director Alejandro Amenabar is best known for his work on the Nicole Kidman-starrer "The Others," the third in a short list of lauded genre-spanning efforts that include "Abre Los Ojos (Open Your Eyes)" and his stomach-turning, suspense thriller debut, "Tesis."

From what audiences have seen in "The Others," the relatively young Amenabar can make a taut, potent package with the careful mixture of a powerful script, a small but able cast, and the right vision.

> It doesn't resort to cheapness by showing the actual brutality–a very daunting task

Terror

One of the featured films in ArtFilm's Spanish film festival, Amenabar's "Tesis" is also an exemplary piece of filmmaking that easily draws the viewer into its unexplored reaches of terror.

The story revolves around the nature of audiovisual violence and morbid human curiosity, the subject of the thesis of mass communications student Angela (Anna Torrent). Conducting her research isn't that difficult, because her peculiar schoolmate Chema (Fele Martinez) has an uncanny fascination for all things gory and dismal.

Chema hesitantly introduces Angela to his video collection of violent reality footages in his pigsty-slash-secret hideout decorated with crude cardboard tombstones and haunted house paraphernalia. But the pair's discovery of a "snuff" tape forces them to piece together a sickening puzzle of videotaped torture and murder.

The film begins quietly enough, but with bits and pieces of moodiness and foreshadowing that's expertly hidden. In a scene that shows car-wreck mentality, motionless people gawk at a mutilated corpse (which, thankfully, is an image we're spared from seeing), unable to look away from the unfortunate soul who just met his maker in an extremely messy manner.

Angela, the well-balanced character that she is, is repulsed by the desensitization of people to acts of violence, making her the perfect yin to Chema's yang.

Amazingly, the plot works well even with the absence of in-your-face gore. Amenabar makes the collective imaginations of the audience work overtime even when we only hear terrifying and anguished shrieks. The palpable scenes are made doubly realistic as we see the disgust in Angela's face, as well as Chema's wry half-smile.

Stripped of sound

It doesn't resort to cheapness by showing the actual brutality—a very daunting task, considering that the success of psychological thrillers like this depend largely on the director's ability to carefully maneuver the viewer into his desired "traps" without appearing too timid.

That's when the creative use of sound techniques are employed. It's much appreciated when certain scenes are stripped bare of sound to commit a sense of indifference or coldness. The film's background music is next to non-existent, which further helps generate a starkness that works nicely in its favor.

Mostly focusing on simplistic but effective storytelling, Amenabar boldly captures his viewers' attention, and then some.

The lead characters are layered, unglossed by the typical overemphasis that insultingly talks down to the audience, prevalent in a sizable percentage of Hollywood films. We understand from the minimalistic dialogue and production design the intricacies of these people without having to hear over and over through the course of the picture what we already know. It's easier to understand their motivations in this case if you know where to look.

Angela's room, for example, speaks a lot about her sensitivity and sense of adventure. It's decorated with cartoon character statues from "The Adventures of Tintin," as well as a poster of "My Own Private Idaho" on the wall (this can also mean she's hopelessly shallow, if she just wanted a huge picture of Keanu Reeves adorning her wall).

She can be painfully dumb when caught in compromising situations, which probably excuses her for some really illogical things that she does. But otherwise, she's a tough girl with a knack for mid-1990s resourcefulness.

Restraint

If there's cause for nitpicking, it's a very minor one: The slightly unpolished blocking sometimes tends to be a little awkward, the layout of characters in certain frames affecting the overall suspensefulness of a few scenes. But that's very forgivable since it's not usually very noticeable.

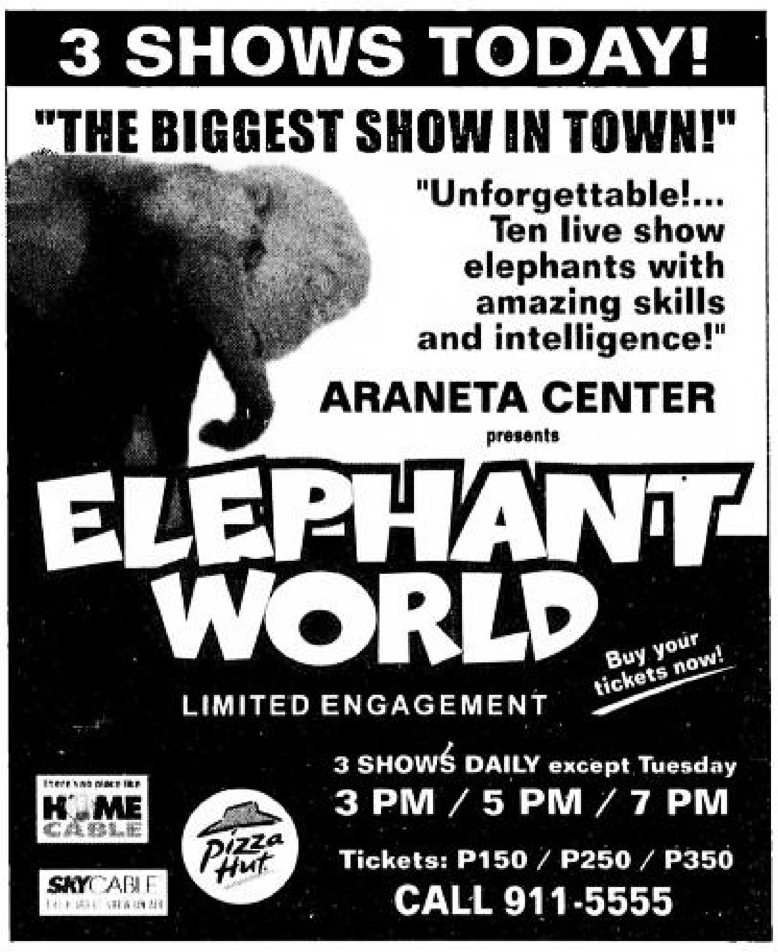
It's not hard to see how the director bowled critics and audiences over in Spain, because he handles the finer points of film language with equal doses of restraint and autonomy. He can use meticulously-worded phrases to frighten or to think, but most of all, to hurt. Thank you, subtitles.

Amenabar's other previously unseen film "Abre Los Ojos", incidentally, will also be shown locally by the Instituto Cervantes (albeit in a different venue). We're only familiar with Cameron Crowe's bewildering mess of a remake, "Vanilla Sky," so it'll be interesting to see the source material this time.

To sum up, "Tesis" is an audacious antithesis of the usual Hollywood thrillers. It delivers the psychological blows and terrors, minus the mandatory schmaltz. Once you're drawn in, it'll be difficult to blink because the movie itself creates that morbid attraction.

In a very idiosyncratic twist of fate, Amenabar is now one of Hollywood's beacons of cinematic hope. Chalk one up for the Europeans.

Meet & Greet
JUDY ANN SANTOS
ROBIN PADILLA
Jeannie
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?
SM North Edsa, 2 pm
SM Megamall, 5 pm
Oct 21 at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice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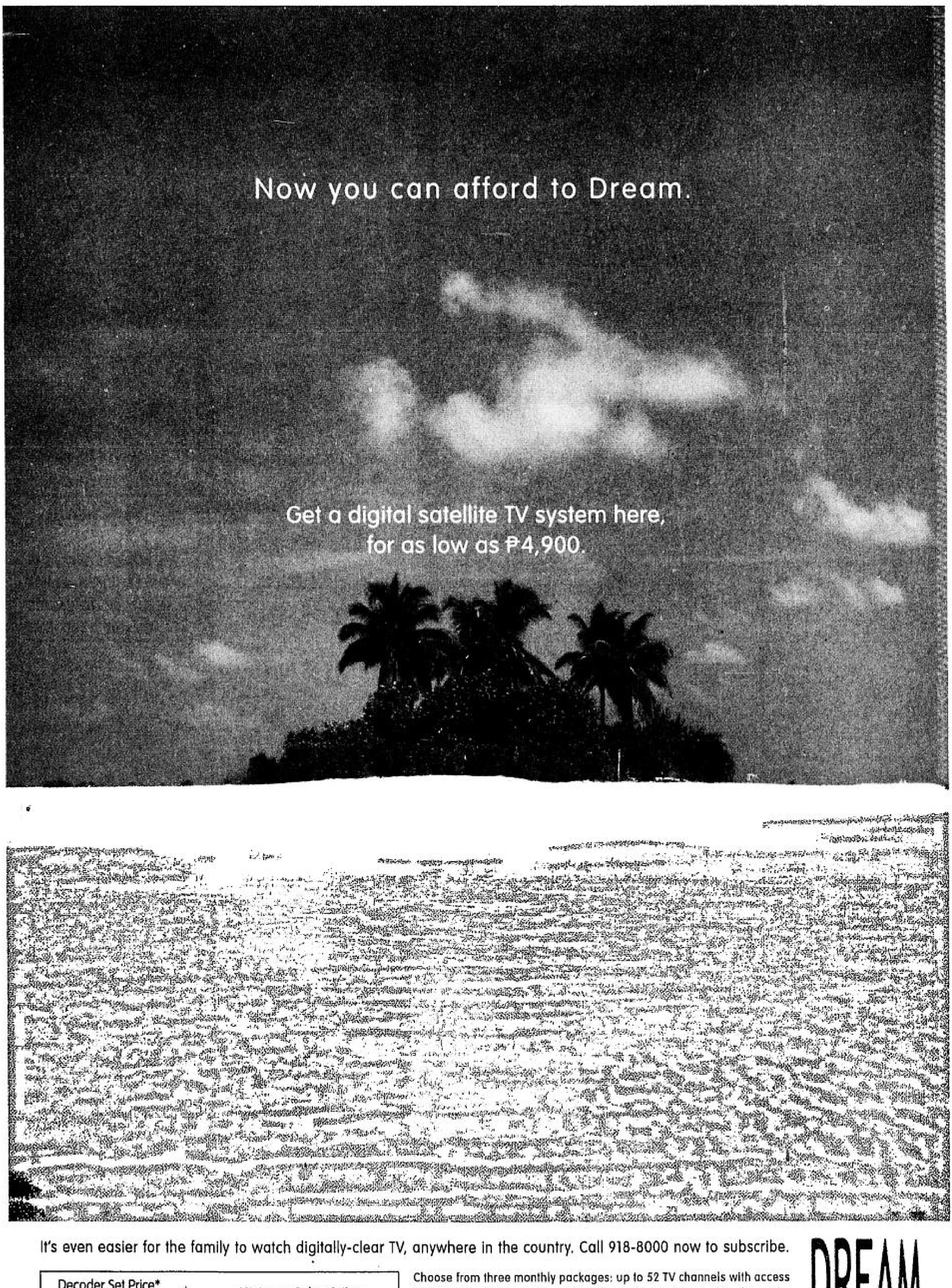

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ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS

G1 GLORIETTA	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BALLISTIC ECKS vs. SEVER	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	SPANISH FESTIVAL FOR CULTURE & ARTS	SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)	9 MORNINGS	THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30	9 MORNINGS
9 MORNINGS	MR. DEEDS 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 25-26 / 9PM	9 MORNINGS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT	OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE)		MR. DEEDS 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	POSSESSION
	POSSESSION		BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30	MR. DEEDS
	SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)			
	POSSESSION			

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1 (DOLBY) THE TOUCH
2 (SDDS) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 GOLD(DTS) POSSESSION
5 GOLD(DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
6 GOLD(SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
7 GOLD(DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS
9 BESTMAN
10 MASIKIP MAINIT..

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel [illegible]
TEL. 551 63 87
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 MASIKIP MAINIT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 9 MORNINGS
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5 MASIKIP MAINIT

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tel 850.4285
1 BLOOD RELATION
2 TUXEDO
3 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
4 9 MORNINGS
5 BESTMAN
6 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751 2010 to13
BALLISTIC
OCT 17,SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 18,SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 19 TO 20 ,SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 SPY KIDS 2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
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1 RESERVE
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3 9 MORNINGS

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1 9 MORNINGS
2 BESTMAN
3 NAGAAPOY NA LANGIT
4 SENSUAL BEING

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.0588
1 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
4 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
5 POSSESSION
6 BESTMAN
7 (DTS) TUXEDO
8 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
9 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 9 MONRINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT..
3 MASIKIP MAINIT..
4 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
5 BESTMAN
6 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7 (DTS) TUXEDO
8 TOUCH
9 LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
4 BESTMAN
5 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
6 (DTS) MASIKIP MAINIT...
7 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
8 TUXEDO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 9 MORNINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN
5 (SDDS) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 MASKIP MAINIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 MASKIP MAINIT .

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MASKIP MAINIT .
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MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 9 MORNINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 9 MORNINGS
3 RESERVE
4 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MASIKIP MAINIT
2 9 MORNINGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT **Araneta**

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 9 MONRINGS
2 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 (DTS) POSSESSION
6 TOUCH
7 MR DEEDS

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2 BESTMAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BESTMAN
2 MASIKIP MAINIT..
3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

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1 BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY) 9 MORNINGS
3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 MASIKIP MAINIT

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ENOUGH
2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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1 9 MORNINGS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 (DTS) MR DEEDS

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 BESTMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BLOOD RELATION
3 TUKAAN
4 BESTMAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION
2 9 MORNINGS
3 (DTS) BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 BESTMAN
5 MASIKIP MAINIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 9 MORNINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 BESTMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 9 MORNINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 ROAD TO PERDITION

(044) 463-3283 **Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 MR. DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
4 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BESTMAN
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PROSTI
2 9 MORNINGS
3 TUXEDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PROSTI
2 BLOODWORK
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) BLOODWORK
4 TOUCH

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Ever malls
On October 20 . 2002 / 2:30 pm
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4173868
1 FRAILTY
2 BESTMAN
3 BALLISTIC
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5 TUXEDO
6 9 MORNINGS
7 MR. DEEDS
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BESTMAN
3 BALLISTIC
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 PROSTI
7 TUXEDO
8 THE TOUCH
9 MR. DEEDS
10 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 THE TOUCH
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 TUXEDO
5 MR. DEEDS
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BALLISTIC
8 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
9 BLOOD RELATIONS
10 FRAILTY
11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 MR. DEEDS
2 FRAILTY
3 POSSESSION
4 BALLISTIC
5 THE TOUCH
6 TUXEDO
7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 9 MORNINGS
10 BESTMAN
11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 FRAILTY
2 POSSESSION
3 BALLISTIC
4 MR. DEEDS
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 THE TOUCH
7 9 MORNINGS
8 BESTMAN
9 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
10 TUXEDO
11 9 MORNINGS
12 PROSTI

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 9 MORNINGS
2 THE TOUCH
3 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 MR. DEEDS
6 TUXEDO
7 POSSESSION
8 BALLISTIC

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 POSSESSION
2 MR. DEEDS
3 BALLISTIC
4 9 MORNINGS
5 PROSTI
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8 TUXEDO
9 BESTMAN
10 THE TOUCH

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 ENOUGH
2 FRAILTY
3 BESTMAN
4 VOODOO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 PROSTI
7 9 MORNINGS
8 TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 VOODOO
2 CLOSED
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 THE ROOKIE
6 9 MORNINGS
7 CLOSED
8 ENOUGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TUXEDO
2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 9 MORNINGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2 BALLISTIC
3 9 MORNINGS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BALLISTIC
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 9 MORNINGS
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 THE TOUCH
2 VOODOO
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 9 MORNINGS
6 FRAILTY

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 **POSSESSION**
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 **BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER**
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:50 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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1 THX BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER 10:15; 12:30; 2:45; 5:00; 7:15; 9:30 LMF;11:05 END
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 PASSESSION
4 MR. DEEDS
5 9 MORNINGS
6 TUXEDO
7 THE TOUCH
8 MASIKIP MAINIT...
9 FRAILTY
10 BLOODWORK

MATINEE PRICE:P80THX cinema / P85 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 RESERVED
2 MR. DEEDS
3 TUXEDO
4 POSSESSION
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THE TOUCH
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 BESTMAN
7 9 MORNINGS
8 "O"

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 THE TOUCH
5 FRAILTY
6 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
7 MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 MR. DEEDS
4 TUXEDO
5 BESTMAN
6 9 MORNINGS

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 THE ROOKIE
2 SIMONE
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH
5 PROSTI
6 TUXEDO

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 THE ROOKIE
2 9 MORNINGS
3 ENOUGH
4 PROSTI
5 VOODOO
6 TUXEDO

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
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2 BLOODWORK
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4 BIRTHDAY GIRL / TUXEDO
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AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING...

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS				
BALLISTIC ECKS vs. SEVER	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 9 MORNINGS	SPANISH FESTIVAL FOR CULTURE & ARTS	SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)	MR. DEEDS 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30	9 MORNINGS
9 MORNINGS	OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE) POSSESSION	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 25-26 / 9PM	9 MORNINGS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 MR. DEEDS 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER POSSESSION
MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT	SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW) POSSESSION		BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30	MR. DEEDS

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3 (DTS) TUXEDO
4 GOLD(DTS) POSSESSION
5 GOLD(DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
6 GOLD(SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
7 GOLD(DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS
9 BESTMAN
10 MASIKIP MAINIT...

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 832.3300 832.3374
TEL. 551 63 87
1 9 MORNINGS
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2 TUXEDO
3 MASIKIP MAINIT
4 9 MORNINGS
5 BESTMAN
6 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13
BALLISTIC
OCT 17,SCREENING TIME:
6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 18,SCREENING TIME:
6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 19 TO 20 ,SCREENING TIME:
6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 SPY KIDS 2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
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Sunshine
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2 BESTMAN
3 NAGAAPOY NA LANGIT
4 SENSUAL BEING

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
4 MASIKIP MAINIT...
5 POSSESSION
6 BESTMAN
7 (DTS) TUXEDO
8 (SDDS) MR. DEEDS
9 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
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1 9 MONRINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 MASIKIP MAINIT
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5 BESTMAN
6 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
7 (DTS) TUXEDO
8 TOUCH
9 LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
4 BESTMAN
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8 TUXEDO

Gotesco Ortigas
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2 MASIKIP MAINIT
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2 9 MORNINGS
3 RESERVE
4 MASIKIP MAINIT
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029
1 MASIKIP MAINIT
2 9 MORNINGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
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1 9 MONRINGS
2 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 (DTS) POSSESSION
6 TOUCH
7 MR. DEEDS

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2 BESTMAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 534.2198
1 BESTMAN
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
1 MASKIP MAINIT
2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BESTMAN
2 (DOLBY) 9 MORNINGS
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4 MASIKIP MAINIT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
4 (DTS) MR. DEEDS

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY E TUXEDO
2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
3 BESTMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BLOOD RELATION
3 TUKAAN
4 BESTMAN

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5 MASIKIP MAINIT

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(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 9 MORNINGS
2 MASIKIP MAINIT
3 BESTMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
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2 MASIKIP MAINIT...
3 ROAD TO PERDITION

(044) 463-3283 **Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 MR DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
4 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BESTMAN
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PROSTI
2 9 MORNINGS
3 TUXEDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PROSTI
2 BLOODWORK
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
2 BESTMAN
3 (DTS) BLOODWORK
4 TOUCH

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SM CITY BACOOR
4173668
1 FRAILTY
2 BESTMAN
3 BALLISTIC
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5 TUXEDO
6 9 MORNINGS
7 MR. DEEDS
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 9 MORNINGS
2 BESTMAN
3 BALLISTIC
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 PROSTI
7 TUXEDO
8 THE TOUCH
9 MR. DEEDS
10 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 THE TOUCH
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 TUXEDO
5 MR. DEEDS
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BALLISTIC
8 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
9 BLOOD RELATIONS
10 FRAILTY
11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 MR. DEEDS
2 FRAILTY
3 POSSESSION
4 BALLISTIC
5 THE TOUCH
6 TUXEDO
7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 9 MORNINGS
10 BESTMAN
11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 FRAILTY
2 POSSESSION
3 BALLISTIC
4 MR. DEEDS
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 THE TOUCH
7 9 MORNINGS
8 BESTMAN
9 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
10 TUXEDO
11 9 MORNINGS
12 PROSTI

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 9 MORNINGS
2 THE TOUCH
3 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 MR. DEEDS
6 TUXEDO
7 POSSESSION
8 BALLISTIC

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 POSSESSION
2 MR. DEEDS
3 BALLISTIC
4 9 MORNINGS
5 PROSTI
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8 TUXEDO
9 BESTMAN
10 THE TOUCH

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 ENOUGH
2 FRAILTY
3 BESTMAN
4 VOODOO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 PROSTI
7 9 MORNINGS
8 TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 VOODOO
2 CLOSED
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 THE ROOKIE
6 9 MORNINGS
7 CLOSED
8 ENOUGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TUXEDO
2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 9 MORNINGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2 BALLISTIC
3 9 MORNINGS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BALLISTIC
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 9 MORNINGS
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 THE TOUCH
2 VOODOO
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 9 MORNINGS
6 FRAILTY

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
633-8976
1 POSSESSION
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/
9:10/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/
9:10/10:50 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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Galleria 632-9115-16
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1 THX BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
10:15; 12:30; 2:45; 5:00; 7:15;
9:30 LMF;11:05 END
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 PASSESSION
4 MR. DEEDS
5 9 MORNINGS
6 TUXEDO
7 THE TOUCH
8 MASIKIP MAINIT...
9 FRAILTY
10 BLOODWORK
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Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-12
1 RESERVED
2 MR. DEEDS
3 TUXEDO
4 POSSESSION
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8280
1 THE TOUCH
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 BESTMAN
7 9 MORNINGS
8 "O"

Novaliches 935-3229 - 30
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 THE TOUCH
5 FRAILTY
6 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
7 MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 MR. DEEDS
4 TUXEDO
5 BESTMAN
6 9 MORNINGS

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459
1 THE ROOKIE
2 SIMONE
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH
5 PROSTI
6 TUXEDO

Iloilo 336-8077 - 78
1 THE ROOKIE
2 9 MORNINGS
3 ENOUGH
4 PROSTI
5 VOODOO
6 TUXEDO

Star Mills- 875-1927
Sn Fernando, Pamp. 961-5318 / 5270
1 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
2 BLOODWORK
3 9 MORNINGS
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL / TUXEDO
5 THE TOUCH
6 THE TOUCH

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Starmills :	STAR
Iloilo :	ILO
Bacolod :	BAC

Send to : 2333 Globe / 225 Smart

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

James Bond film series turns 40

From page A32

tips that may ultimately save other people's lives. Replays on Friday, Oct. 25 at 1:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

New TV series

FOR HIS much-anticipated debut on television, director James Cameron ("Titanic") has created "Dark Angel" a sci-fi adventure series. It started airing on Star World last Oct. 3, and is being telecast every Thursday at 9 p.m.

"Dark Angel" stars **Jessica Alba** as Max, a genetically enhanced human prototype with a lot of attitude. Having escaped her military handlers, she is hunted by them as she seeks to reunite with her surviving "siblings."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'O'
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
MR. DEEDS
12:15, 2:25, 4:35
6:45, 8:55
P 13

CINEMA 2
9 MORNINGS
12:00, 2:15, 4:30,
6:45, 9:00
GP

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT 23, 2002 "SHEER" Lingerie Collection 8:30 PM
OCT 25, 2002 "SHOWDOWN" w/ Rachel Alejandro & Geneva Cruz 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6728 OR 721-0635

FALL IN LOVE WITH AMERICA'S NEWEST SWEETHEART
OPENS OCTOBER 30!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
You Think You've Found True Love? Well, Think Again.

REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SDDS
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MAY MGA BAGAY NA,
'IKA NGA WORTH WAITING FOR.
Robin Padilla. Judy Ann Santos.
...together.
Isang wish come true.

Jeannie
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?

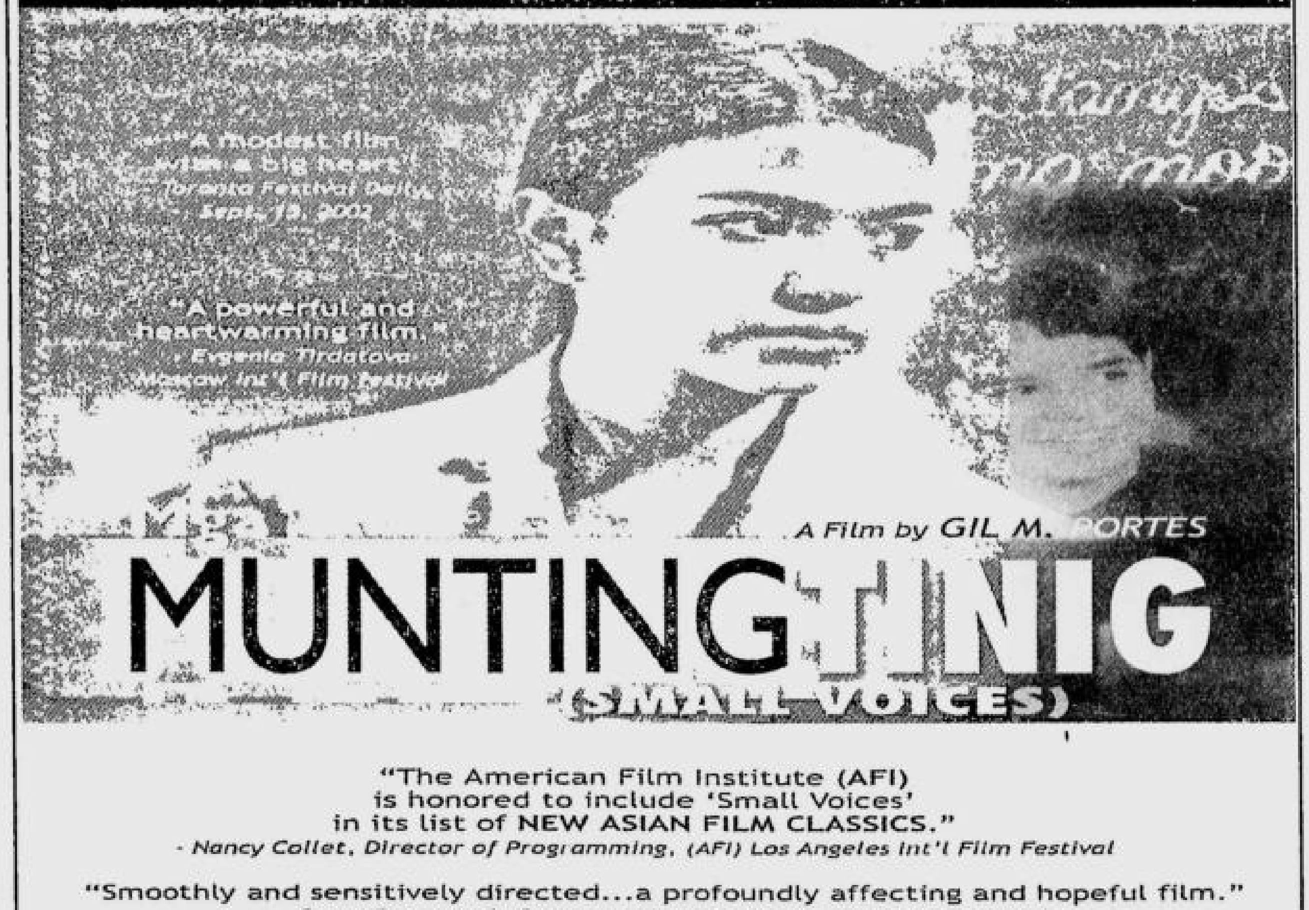
Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava
DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.
VIVA
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
Rexona
REV-X
LEONARDO
SHOWING NA SA OCTOBER 23!

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

NO.1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!
TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL
YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING
ANTHONY HOPKINS
EDWARD NORTON
FIENNES
KEITEL
WATSON
MARY-LOUISE PARKER
PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
A BRETT RATNER FILM
RED DRAGON
THE FIRST AND MOST TERRIFYING CHAPTER
IN THE HANNIBAL LECTER TRILOGY

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS OCTOBER 23

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED
TRIUMPHANT
IN TORONTO
OPENS OCTOBER 23


"A modest film with a big heart"
Toronto Festival Daily, Sept. 13, 2002
"A powerful and heartwarming film."
Evgenia Tirdatova
Moscow Int'l Film Festival
A Film by GIL M. PORTES
MUNTING TINIG
(SMALL VOICES)

"The American Film Institute (AFI)
is honored to include 'Small Voices'
in its list of NEW ASIAN FILM CLASSICS."
- Nancy Collet, Director of Programming, (AFI) Los Angeles Int'l Film Festival

"Smoothly and sensitively directed...a profoundly affecting and hopeful film."
- Steve Gravestock, Program Manager, Toronto Int'l Film Festival

"Very unique. It should do well in the OSCAR race for
Best Foreign Language Film."
Jacob M. Neilendam, Nordic Correspondent, Screen International

"It's an uplifting, optimistic film, much needed in our current times."
- Liz Czach, Programmer, Perspective Canada

"A rare Philippine film. No violence, no gratituos sex,
no overbearing melodramatic crying."
Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.
www.smallvoices.cjb.net

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

James Bond film series turns 40

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LATEST James Bond Film, "Die Another Day," is all set to be screened worldwide, fully four decades after the first movie on the top secret agent's exploits, "Dr. No," premiered on Oct. 6, 1962. To mark the special anniversary, an interesting fact sheet has been released.

It informs us that, far from being a sure hit since Day One, "Dr. No" encountered some rough sailing early in the game. For one thing, producers **Harry Saltzman** thought that **Sean Connery** was too "low class" to play his suave creation. In the course of shooting his scenes in the film, however, the hirsute and macho actor won his producer over to his side.

It wasn't quite so easy to win over the first film's American distributors, who didn't feel that viewers in the States would watch a movie about a British spy. As a result, the film's US run was delayed until May, 1963.

Another interesting revelation is that some name actors *almost* played James Bond:

Producer **Cubby Broccoli** wanted his friend **Cary Grant** for the role, and he would have been physically right for the part, but Grant politely turned him down.

John Gavin had already agreed to do the part, but his performance didn't push trough because Connery was lured back to do "Diamonds Are Forever."

United Artists executives wanted **Burt Reynolds** to play James Bond, but Brocolli and Saltzman insisted that Bond be British, and hired **Roger Moore** instead.

James Brolin screen-tested for "Octopussy" before Moore renewed his contract. And **Sam Neill** was about to be cast in "The Living Daylights," but Broccoli had the final word: He picked **Timothy Dalton**.

New screening format

MONTHS ago, we wrote in this space about the plan of some big businessmen to put up a chain of pocket malls throughout the country that would have small moviehouses showing digitized films beamed to the theaters from a satellite. This would not only be economical, but it would assure the simultaneous showing of new movies all over the Philippines.

Well, it looks like at least part of that grand master plan is going to be implemented. Although the malls are not yet being factored into the operation, some 10 such theaters will be opening in different parts of the country. The admission prices may be lower than the prevailing norm, to make the small moviehouses more competitive.

We find this incipient development interesting because it provides another screening and viewing option that's different from the reel-based, big-theater format that's become the standard in the country.

Before this, the big development was the rise of the big mall-based cineplexes, which have become the dominant theater circuit here. There are now hundreds of cineplex theaters in our major malls, and their current popularity has prompted the closure of some neighborhood theaters and "stand-alone" movie houses.

If the new satellite-based screening venues catch the fancy of moviegoers, they could also change the local theater landscape in other ways. Particularly in the provinces, they can become successful, because moviegoers there will no longer have to wait a week or so viewing new releases.

Feedback

FROM F.T.: "Your column is a big favorite in our family circle, as it is easy to read, very informative and entertaining. We especially like the items in 'Boob-tube Boo-boos.'

"Here is one 'view' from a televiewer: I watch Channel 2's 'TV Patrol' five days a week because I like its news coverage. But the moment it starts to air the 'Mga Kuwento ni **Marc Logan**' portion, I immediately switch to a different news program, as we do not want to hear the croaky Marc Logan narration—it sounds like a fishwife talking.

"*Sayang! Sabi ng ilan dito na nagtitiyagang pakinggan yon, ang gaganda raw ng mga paksa na itinatampok sa bahaging yon ng 'TV Patrol.' Sana, iba na lang ang pagsalaysayin doon, upang hindi nakakainis pakinggan.*"

Star special

THURSDAY, Oct. 24 at 10 p.m., "When Seconds Count: How to Survive a Disaster." A look at some life-threatening situations and the steps people take to survive them.

Hosted by **Hector Elizondo** ("Chicago Hope"), this powerful one-hour special includes footage of actual events, and heart-pounding interviews with survivors who provide

JAMES/A31

AYALA CINEMAS
"TWO THUMBS UP!" — Ebert & Rouper
"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!" — Rollingstone
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
RUPERT EVERETT COLIN FIRTH FRANCIS O'CONNOR REESE WITHERSPOON JUDI DENCH
Directed by Oliver Parker
Based on a play by Oscar Wilde
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
THE COFFEE CLUB
NOW SHOWING
Only at ARTFILM GREENBELT 1
Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
Her Past...
SNEAK PREVIEW TODAY AT AYALA CINEMAS.
For screening schedules, pls call 729-7777. MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13).

Instituto Cervantes ¡FIESTA! AYALA CINEMAS ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

October 20 (Sun)
La Ardilla Roja 11:30pm
Bwana 2:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuelo 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 224 (Thu)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

NOKIA INQUIRER

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

POSSESSION P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	**9 MORNINGS** GP 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:35,9:50	**MR. DEEDS** P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00
SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	**TUXEDO** P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	**BALLISTIC** P13 11:45,1:50,3:55, 6:00,8:05,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 3 PM - MON TO FRI

OPENS OCTOBER 23!
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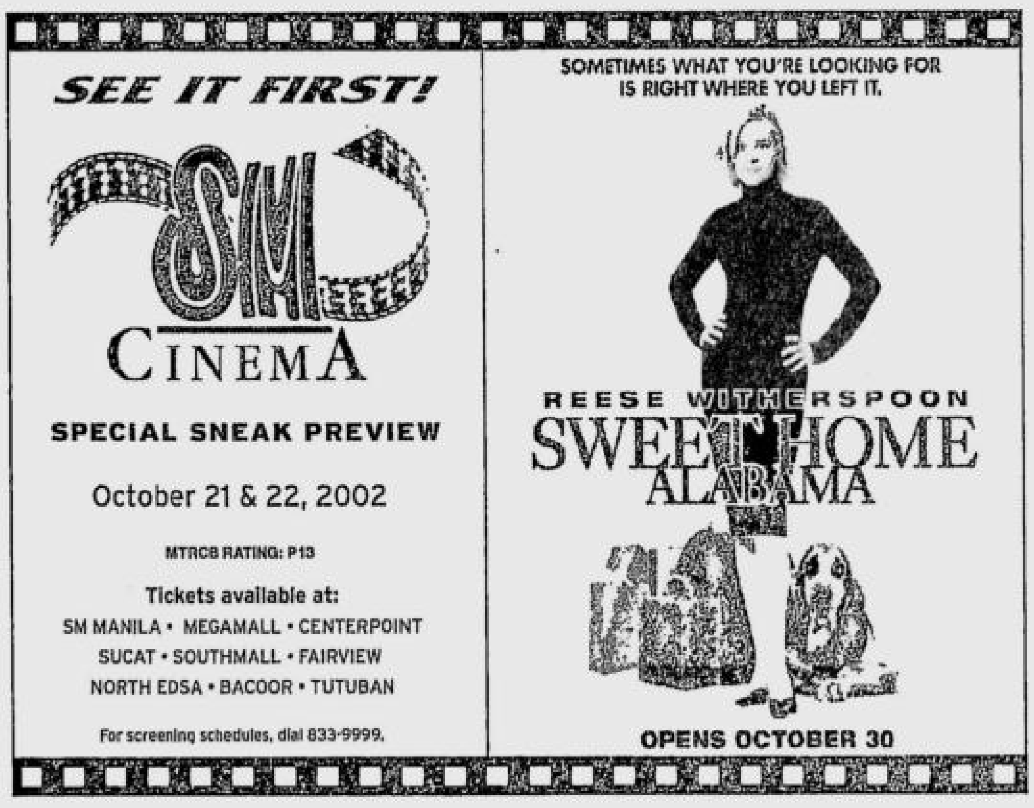
EDDIE MURPHY
PLUTO NASH



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October 21 & 22, 2002
MTRCB RATING: P13
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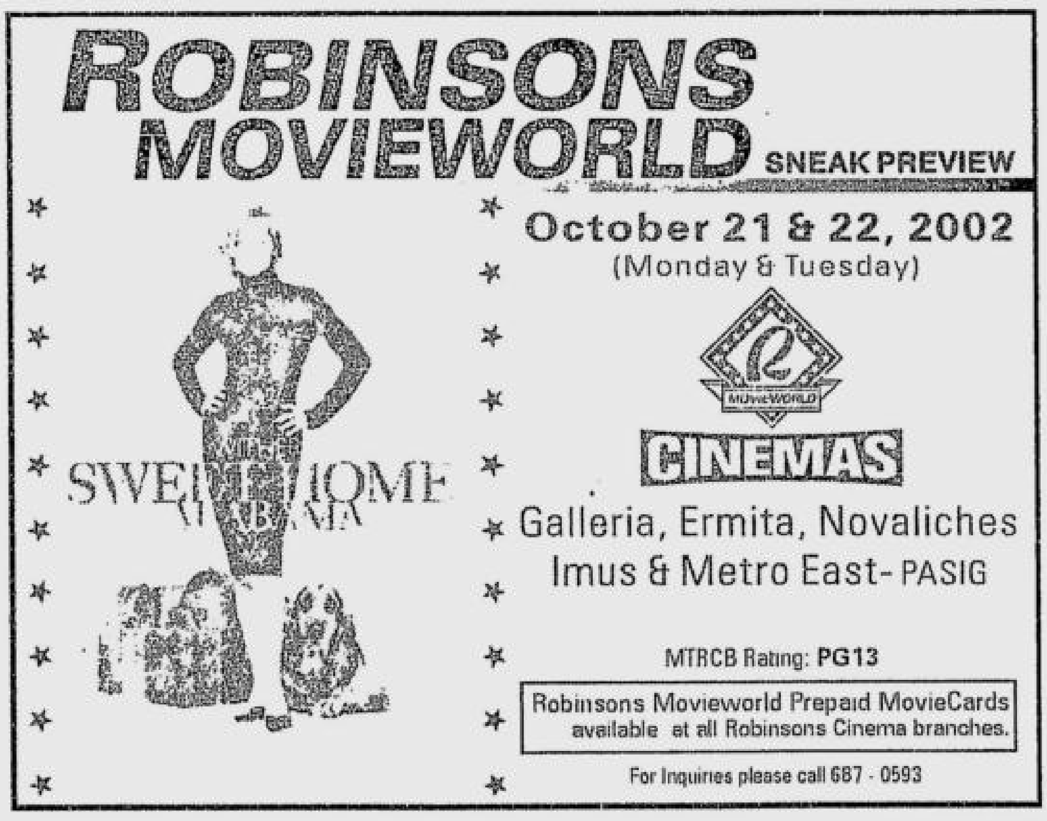
For screening schedules, dial 833-9999.
SOMETIMES WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT IT.
REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
OPENS OCTOBER 30



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD SNEAK PREVIEW
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
October 21 & 22, 2002
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Galleria, Ermita, Novaliches
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INVITATIONAL RJ 100 SCREENING
on October 21, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on November 6 at the SM CINEMAS.
SAMUEL L. JACKSON BEN AFFLECK
ONE WRONG TURN DESERVES ANOTHER
CHANGING LANES

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
CART WHEEL FOUNDATION PREMIERE NIGHT
on October 21, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: GP
Regular showing on October 23 at the SM CINEMAS.
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MUNTING TINIG

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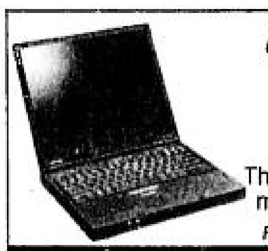
MONDAY,
OCTOBER 21, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



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Corruption in RP perceived worsening

By Clarissa S. Batino

CORRUPTION in the country is perceived by business people and risk analysts to have worsened, a global survey released recently by Transparency International, an international coalition against corruption, showed.

Transparency International's 2002 global survey showed that the Philippines was perceived to be the 11th most corrupt of the 102 nations covered. It shared the notorious spot with Pakistan, Romania and Zambia.

The Philippines' ranking slipped to No. 77 with a corruption perceptions index (CPI) score of 2.6, from No. 65 in the previous survey with a CPI score of 2.9.

The CPI score refers to perceptions on the degree of corruption as seen by business people and risk analysts, and ranges between zero (for the highly corrupt) to 10 (for the highly clean).

"That is the perception in doing business with our agencies. This means we are not addressing enough these corruption (incidences)," said TI Philippines president Judge Dolores Español.

Español noted that 11 surveys from both national and international polling agencies covering the year 2001 were used by Transparency International in ranking the Philippines. Under the group's rules, a country must be surveyed at least three times before it is rated. It defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain.

The country with the best score in the 2002 Transparency International CPI was Finland with a CPI of 9.7 while at the bottom of the list was Bangladesh with a CPI score of 1.2. Finland was followed by Denmark and New Zealand.

Perceived the least corrupt in Asia was Singapore with a rating of 9.3 percent. It ranked fourth overall, along with Sweden.

The 2002 global survey ranked the United States the 16th least corrupt nation with a score of 7.7 percent.

Procurement Watch Inc. (PWI), a non-profit non-partisan civil society organization in the country, has reported that a huge part of corruption in the government was taking place in the procurement of goods and services and the contracting of infrastructure projects, PWI said in a statement.

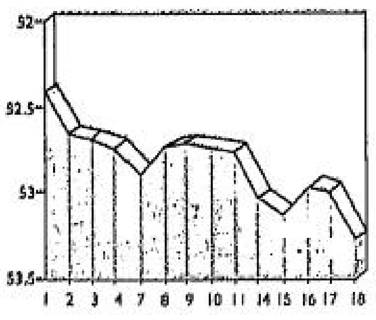
It was estimated that the Philippine government was losing P21 billion a year due to corruption in the procurement process.

"A recent survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed

CORRUPTION/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2002

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Trading seen to remain sluggish

THE BEARS are seen to continue dominating the local stock market this week in the wake of heightened concerns over peace and order situations both here, particularly with the bomb scare now gripping Metro Manila, and overseas.

Traders said investors would likely stay on the sidelines as several grenade blasts ripped through Metro Manila last week. At least three people were killed and scores were injured during a bus explosion in Edsa near Muñoz last Friday.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed another 44.52 points or 4.15 percent after the bombings in Bali and those in Mindanao, aggravated by the bomb scare in the metropolis.

Eric Claúdio, equity research adviser of Unicapital Securities, said he was not expecting a rebound this week, but added that the market might turn bullish by November and December due to the coming holidays.

The market usually rallies towards the end of the year due to yearend window-dressing as well as positioning for the coming year.

TRADING/ B6

Credit card companies: Fine-print fiends?

By Clarissa S. Batino

(First of three parts)

B-One

IT WAS an offer most people in need could not refuse: A loan without collateral at an interest rate of 1.5 percent a month or 18 percent a year. Only, it was not what it was claimed to be.

At least, not for Michael Santos (not his real name), who received a call from Citibank one busy day in July.

The person on the other line, one of Citibank's so-called telemarketers or salespeople trying to get deals over the phone, informed Santos of a promo dubbed as "Call for Cash."

The proposition was a one-year loan equivalent to half of his credit limit with an interest of 1.5 percent a month, Santos recalled.

An 18-percent annual interest rate on a clean loan is not bad, as most banks charge anywhere between 16 and 30 percent per annum on a loan without collateral.

One quite familiar with the workings of banks and, to some extent, credit cards, Santos, who holds a Citibank Gold Visa card, didn't really need the money.

But a believer in the necessity and convenience of the "plastic cash," Santos tried the facility and availed himself of P10,000 even when he was offered as much as P200,000.

"I asked the account officer repeatedly if the interest rate would only be 1.5 percent, and she assured me repeatedly that it is. I thought that at 18 percent, it was a cheap unsecured loan, so I tried it," Santos said.

CREDIT/ B7

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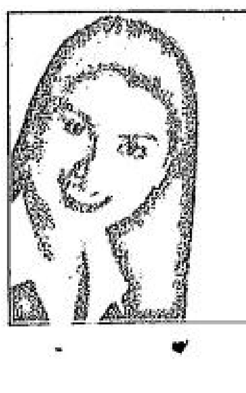

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TRM to decide on tariff policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters will hold a crucial meeting today to decide whether to delay duty cuts on other industries similar to the deferment in tariff reduction of plastic resins.

The postponement will stretch the period of protection for petrochemical companies against imports up to 10 years, a concession other industries such as automotive, paper, steel, and palm oil are also hankering for to forestall competition with imports.

A government source said today's TRM meeting should lay down the government's policy on tariff liberalization in view of the scheduled reduction in duties on goods coming from the region (Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff rates) by 2003 and non-Asean countries (most favored nation or MFN rates) by 2004.

ROXAS

The source said the key issue to be clarified by the country's economic managers was whether the delay in tariff cuts would be applied to more industries other than the petrochemical industry.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II had earlier moved to delay the scheduled tariff cuts on plastic resins (the main product of local petrochemical firms and base material for all plastic products) from 15 percent to 5 percent next year under the Afta protocol. Roxas hinted that other industries might also be considered for tariff cut delays.

The move, widely seen as a U-turn in the government's unwavering rush toward free trade, has led to a torrent of similar petitions from other industries that insist that they need more time to prepare for the tariff cuts just like the petrochemical industry. The country made the commitments to cut Afta and MFN tariffs almost a decade ago.

Swamped with a flurry of petitions just a few months before the onset of Afta, The Tariff Commission—the agency tasked to regulate tariff revisions—has asked Malacañang for a clear policy direction on trade liberalization.

The DTI has vigorously defended the extended protection of the petrochemical industry citing it as a strategic industry that has linkages to almost all manufacturing industries that use plastic. The petrochemical industry has petitioned to maintain their Afta rates of 15 percent while increasing their MFN rates to 30 percent up to 2010.

The DTI's accommodation of the petrochemical industry's petition, however, has been strongly opposed by plastic manufacturers who would have to shell out more for their resin imports. Also, higher duties on resins would distort the tariff structure unless duties on finished plastic products would also be raised.

US panel pulls out of Nov. 11 air rights negotiations with RP

By Abigail L. Ho

THE AIR talks with the United States slated for next month was postponed indefinitely after the US air panel backed out of the negotiations.

Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said in an interview last week that the Philippine air panel was already scheduled to sit down with its US counterparts on Nov. 11 to 13 but the US air panel suddenly pulled out of the talks.

Valdez, however, said the other scheduled air talks, including those with Korea and Japan, would still push through within this week and next.

With the negotiations with the US now shelved, the aviation liberalization advocacy group Freedom to Fly Coalition said the government should now reschedule the talks with the United Arab Emirates at the soonest possible time.

"This is an opportune time for the (Department of Foreign Affairs) to show that it really mean it when it says it cares for the overseas Filipino workers. It is a known fact that some 1.5 million OFWs have to wait three to six months to get home from their jobs in the Middle East. To finally hold the talks now for the expansion of flights to and from Dubai will greatly help in restoring their faith and confidence in their government," FFC president Mila Abad said in a statement Friday.

Last month, the DFA, which is vice chair of the Philippine air panel, told the UAE panel of the panel's decision to shelve their scheduled negotiations to pave the way for the talks with the US.

This recent cancellation of the meeting was the second this year. The first one was in April, shortly after the signing of a general air service agreement with the UAE.

Flights between Dubai and Manila remained at six times a week despite the difficulties encountered by the OFWs in booking their flights during the holiday seasons.

All six flights are flown by UAE flag carrier Emirates Airlines, with three flights under a code-sharing agreement with Philippine Airlines Inc.

Emirates earlier said it could fly the Manila-Dubai route up to 14 times a week, even without the flight lease agreement with PAL, if it would get the authority to do so under a renegotiated air service agreement.

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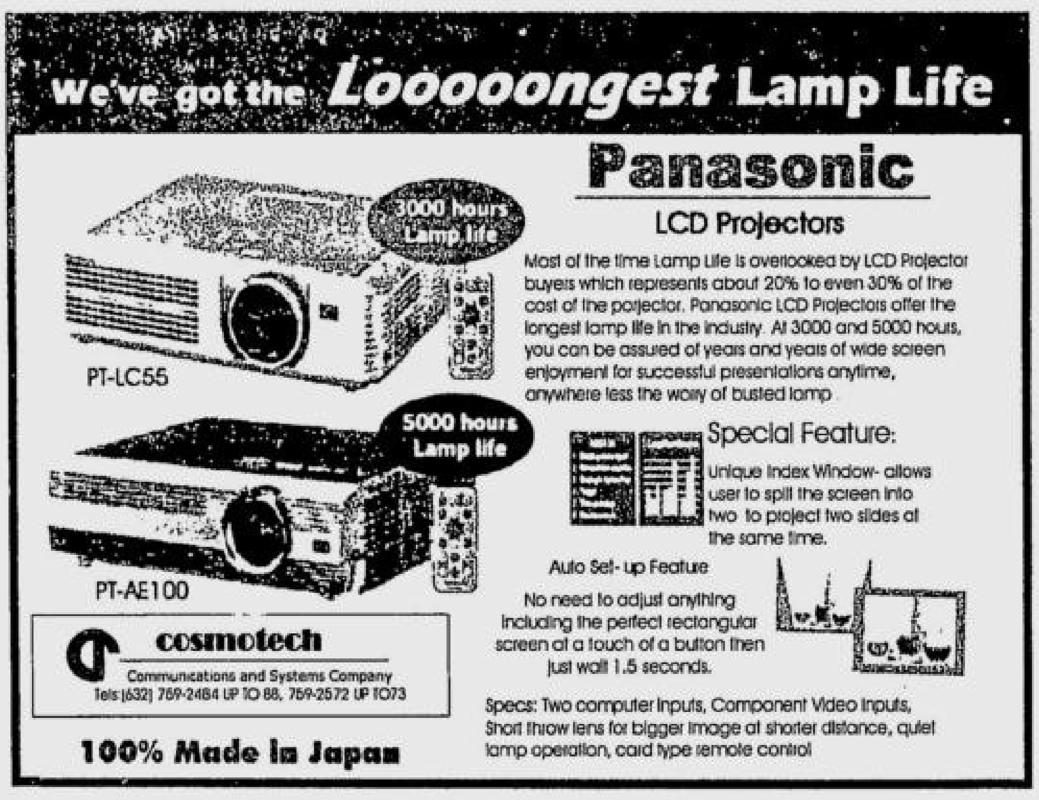
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NHMFC debt drags SSS down

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ANGELICO T. Salud, president of National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., disagreed with my Sept. 23 column where I said that "a P30-billion balance was lent to NHMFC, another government firm that had gone bankrupt twice." Salud claims that NHMFC "has remitted a total of P26.35 billion as of July 31,2002."

Salud's figure is the grand total of all payments since 1988. But, as of last Dec. 31, according to the SSS annual report, NHMFC owed the SSS, in principal amount, P27.4 billion. As of last Sept. 30, the principal rose to P27.9 billion. Add P10.7 billion in penalties and past due interest, and we have a sub-total of P38.7 billion.

According to the Commission on Audit, as of last Dec. 31, NHMFC also owed, in principal amounts, the GSIS P5.9 billion and Pag-IBIG P4.5 billion. Finally, NHMFC has a foreign loan equivalent to P738 million. I estimate the unpaid interest on these loans at P1.2 billion as of last Dec. 31. This sub-total comes up to P11.3 billion.

The grand total is a whopping P51 billion. How will NHMFC dig itself out of this hole?

To be fair, the mounting debacle at NHMFC is not Salud's fault. The problem has been festering since the Aquino administration. The problem peaked when the Ramos presidency decided to build 1,200,000 low-cost homes in six years. This was FVR's flagship project. Four years into the program, the project was in shambles. Airearages had piled up. To boost collections, a law was passed to condone penalties under certain conditions. Few bit, and the arrearages piled up even more.

SSS was the biggest source of funds. Now, it is stuck with P38.7 billion in receivables and growing, which looks like NHMFC will never be able to repay. How does this impact on the SSS? This P38.7 billion is 23.5 percent of the total assets of the SSS. NHMFC's liability is the single biggest drain on the cash flow of the SSS.

The loan was collected from members, more than half of whom are minimum wage workers. This is money that, by law, the SSS guarantees to pay back to members in the form of death, disability and retirement benefits. The members cannot be stopped from dying, being disabled, or retiring just because the money is no longer around.

Salud says the SSS need not worry over its investments in NHMFC since these are solidly secured by real estate mortgages. If the mortgages were on real estate in urban areas, I will agree. But the low-cost housing units that are mortgaged to NHMFC are located far from the centers of population. The land (which was overpriced to begin with) appreciates, if at all, at a rate not nearly enough to offset the fast deterioration of the poorly constructed units. This is why insurance companies in the private sector do not invest in government low-cost housing.

If these real estate holdings are really solid, I would like to hear how much of these mortgages have been securitized or sold, which is NHMFC's main job in the first place.

Salud claims NHMFC has never been bankrupt. Let's take a look. In 2000, NHMFC lost P535,703.402. In 2001, the first full year of operations under the current administration, it lost two and a half times more, P1,338,760,105. The paid-in capital of P3,370,509,783 is down to P457,167,571 or 14 percent. If NHMFC were a private insurance company, the Insurance Commission would have shut it down and placed it under receivership.

NHMFC is top heavy. Aside from the president, there is an executive vice president, three senior vice presidents and 12 vice presidents. These 17 highly paid executives lord it over 620 employees, 198 of whom are contractual and 22 casual workers.

The sorry mess at NHMFC is incredible considering that the chair is Michael Defensor, a take charge guy. The members of the board are Finance Secretary Camacho, Budget Secretary Boncodin and Bangko Sentral Governor Buenaventura. You could not find a more impressive lineup. But, what's this I hear that the board seldom meets?

Recently, the government poured in another P500 million into the sinkhole. You would think that NHMFC would take good care of the money. So, what does it do? I hear that, because of an impending presidential directive to stop all bonuses, NHMFC pre-empted Malacañang and gave all employees a bonus of P40,000 each, or about P25,000,000 in all. This will be on top of the bonus next Christmas.

I guess losing over P1.3 billion in one year is an achievement of sort that needs to be handsomely rewarded—with taxpayers' money, of course.

Probe of ₱1.2-B UOBP deal sought

By Elena R. Torrijos

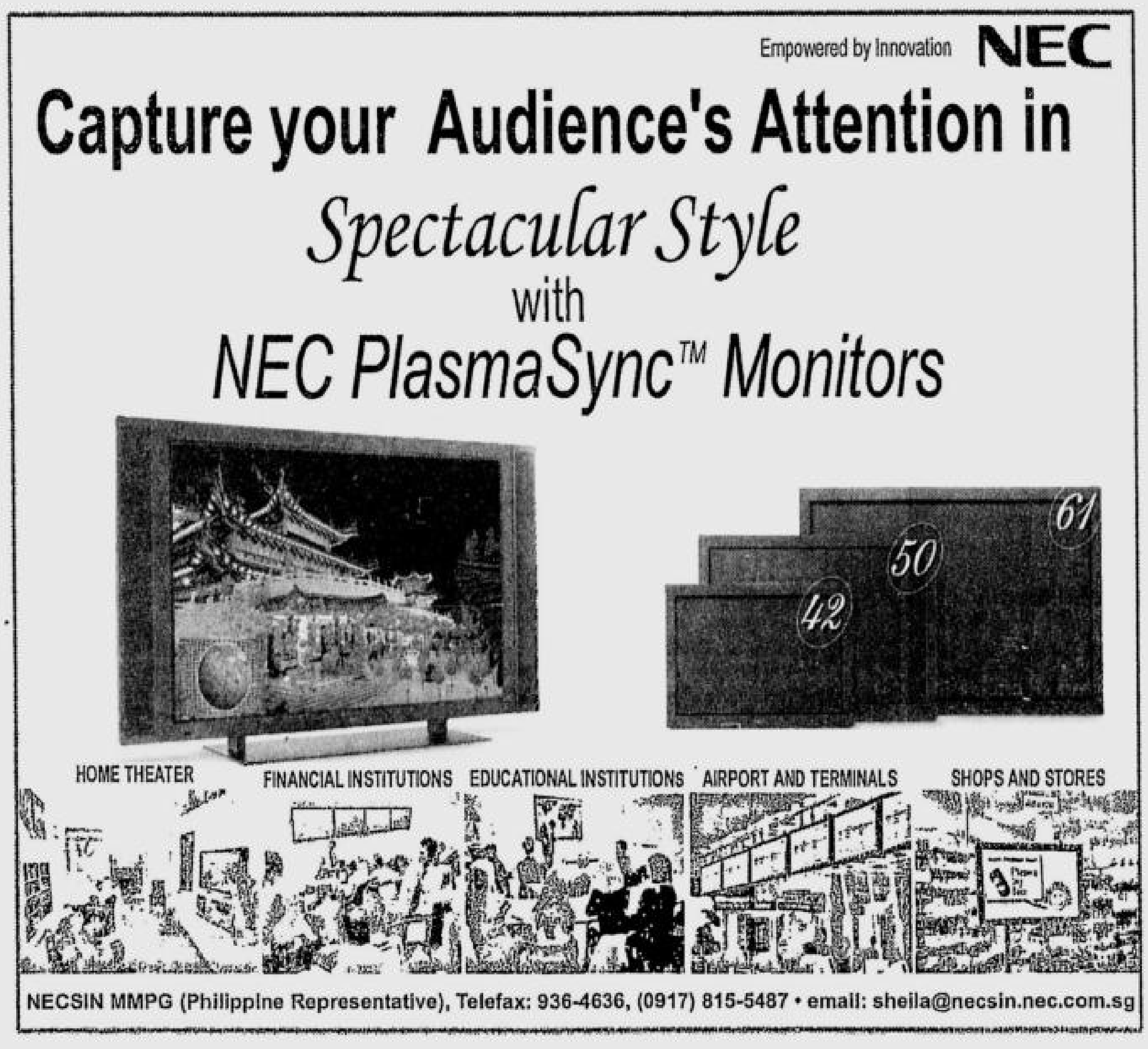
ELEVEN House representatives have signed a petition calling on the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on a P1.2-billion cash settlement agreement between the Filipino and foreign shareholders of United Overseas Bank Philippines with an end in view of protecting the rights of depositors.

Filed by Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva, the resolution noted that the shareholders' agreement did not categorically provide for the settlement of the claims of the depositors and clientele of UOB, formerly Westmont Bank, who lost their money because of a scheme of the bank's sister firm Westmont Investment Corp.

Wincorp, using Westmont bank branches and bank personnel, lent about P7 billion from over 1,000 UOB-Westmont depositors to 20 cash-strapped companies. Most of these borrower-companies were also owned by the same group of local shareholders of the bank and Wincorp, mainly the associates and son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu.

In a case filed before the justice department two years ago, the Securities and Exchange Commission had charged that former Wincorp chair and former Westmont Bank president John Espiritu and Wincorp directors Henry Cua Loping, Simeon Cua, Manuel Tankiansee, Alfonso Reyno III and others were criminally liable for the company's failure to register its investment scheme with the SEC in violation of the country's securities laws. The case, however, has not prospered with the Department of Justice.

"Despite the clear and impartial findings of fraud by the SEC, certain past and present officials of the UOB and Wincorp have not been made to answer for their participation and involvement in the said scheme," Villanueva noted.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RP can tap Indonesian oil in case of crisis, says DOE

THE COUNTRY can get additional oil from Indonesia in case the Middle East tension would cause an oil supply crisis, the Department of Energy said.

In a statement, the DOE quoted Philippine National Oil Co. president Thelmo Cunanan as saying that access to emergency shipments was secured through commercial arrangements with PNOC's Indonesian counterpart, Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak & Gas Bumi Negara (Pertamina).

Cunanan said the deal would provide the country with a back-up contingency plan to ensure security and reliability of local oil stock.

The DOE said that the commercial arrangement was an offshoot of discussions between Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. and the minister of Indonesia's Energy and Mineral Resources.

The two officials attended the recently held 8th World Energy Forum in Osaka, Japan.

"Indonesia is one of the major oil producing countries," Perez noted. "We are very pleased that we can depend on our neighbors per commitments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations."

The official reiterated that the Philippines had a steady and adequate supply of oil as the government was continuing to pursue bilateral arrangements with other countries as alternative sources of oil.

The DOE said that the country was getting oil products from 15 countries, of which only three are in the Middle East.

LPG players told to police ranks

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. recently called on the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines (LPGRA) to ensure that their ranks "are not infiltrated by elements who may possibly be involved in the unauthorized refilling and selling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)."

Perez made the call in the wake of an ongoing nationwide crackdown by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on facilities engaged in illegal LPG refilling business. Three major establishments were recently raided by the NBI. These are Republic Gas Corp. in Malabon, Omni Gas Corp. in Pasig City and the Northland Gas Corp. in Laoag City.

Recently, the LPGRA asked the Pasig Regional Trial Court to stop the DOE from implementing a memorandum circular which raised the penalties for illegal refilling and sale of LPG from P10,000 per apprehension to P10,000 per cylinder involved in the apprehension.

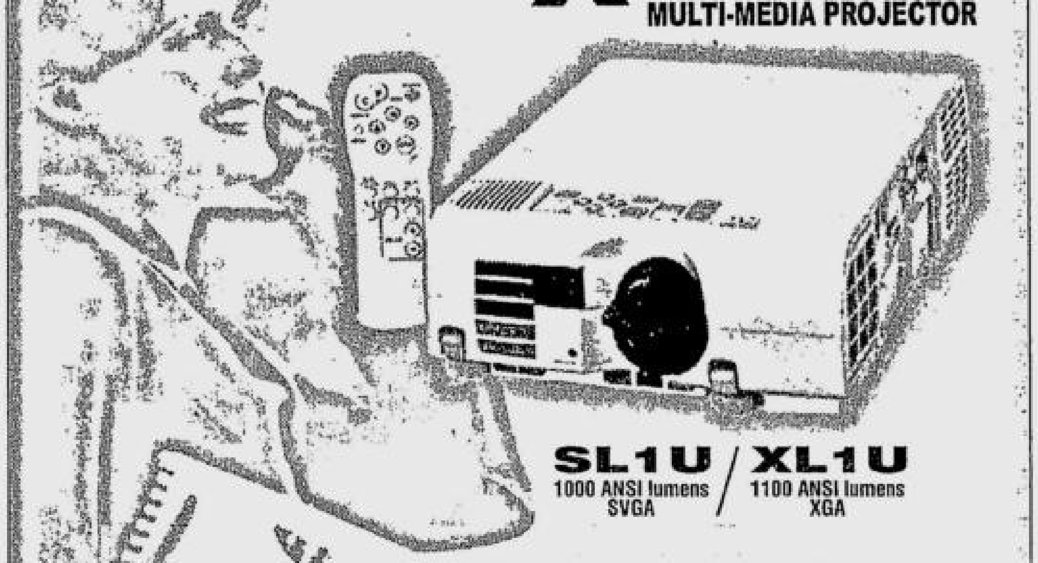
The Pasig RTC, however, junked the petition for a temporary restraining order. Perez hailed the decision saying the increased penalties "reflect our anger against the risks to which our loved ones are exposed due to these unsafe products."

Corruption in RP perceived worsening

From page B1

that 15 percent of the cost of all government contracts is funneled out of the projects and into corruption," PWI program director Kristina Pimentel said. "Therefore, a procurement focused strategy for combating graft and corruption can have a substantial impact on the economy."

PWI has been pushing for the passage of the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2002 (Senate Bill No. 2248 and House Bill No. 4809).



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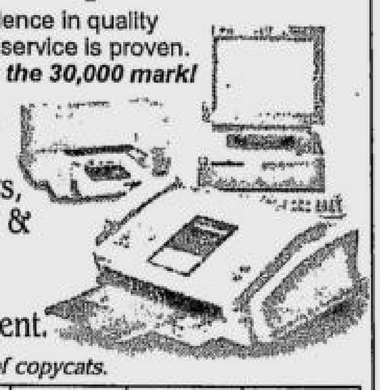

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Beyond peace and security

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE TERROR incidents that have hit Zamboanga City readily give the impression that Mindanao is a place to steer clear of, where angels fear to tread. More often than not, the surface abnormality takes precedence over the real Mindanao.

An outsider looking into Mindanao could just as easily fail to see beyond the gory pictures and the full-blocked headlines. When one talks about conflict, religion-inspired rift and socioeconomic inequity, no other Philippine island group is as dramatic and as traumatic as Mindanao. There lies the fault.

The consultations I had with our business leaders show that confidence remains high in the viability of Mindanao as an investment destination. We have seen more local and foreign trade missions ever since the government signed the peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1996 and resumed formal talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) soon after the Central Mindanao engagements in April-June 2000. The gross regional domestic product growth rate hovers around 5 percent and our agri-industries contribute 44 percent of the Philippine total.

It is worth noting that during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Mindanao alone posted a positive growth rate among the Philippine island groups and we owe it to our robust export-oriented industries. It is very clear that, for the record, neither bombs nor market speculators could put Mindanao asunder.

The involvement of international donor agencies to Mindanao's development is also a clear manifestation of their belief that the island region holds the key to the country's total development. In essence, promoting peace and development in Mindanao is at the same time promoting peace and development for the whole country. Focusing on poverty-alleviation programs could clearly put a stop to the vicious cycle of poverty and underdevelopment in the island. More jobs and livelihood opportunities create an atmosphere where an armed struggle becomes the least of all options.

If one were to look at Zamboanga, one could see the top-grossing seaweeds industry in the region that accounts for 70 percent of the world's produce.

The region itself accounts for 13.20 percent of Mindanao's total exports. On the Eaga front, the Zamboanga-Sandakan trading link accounts for a major chunk of the Mindanao-Malaysia export-import market. Records from the National Statistics Office show that the Mindanao-Malaysia trade connection pegged US$20.8 million from 1997-1999.

What we need to see is a government that is pro-active and not reactive to incidents similar to what had happened in Zamboanga City in the past few weeks. What we need to see is a unified and clear-cut effort of the AFP and the PNP to secure the area—not as a palliative but as a sustained measure.

The Balikatan exercises and other similar efforts could surely boost the effectivity of our police and military forces in counter-terrorism. We should support the government in this aspect. After all, we need government to secure the very same gains it has worked hard to achieve hand in hand with the business sector in Mindanao.

As I have said in so many business meetings and media conferences, Mindanao still holds the HOPE and the PROMISE. These are things that are tangible beyond peace and security. *(Ms Bian is chair of the Mindanao Business Council and country director of East Asean Business Council)*

BSP allows banks to sell insurance products

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas finally approved a circular allowing banks with stakes in insurance firms of at least 5 percent to sell insurance products in their branches.

"This is the start of the liberalization process but we would like to proceed with caution to ensure the safety of depositors," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank would release a list of insurance products that affiliated banks could sell as part of the new policy on bancassurance or cross-selling. The BSP chief said these banks would most likely be allowed to sell life insurance which is considered the safest and least prone to fraud and abuses.

Buenaventura said the liberalization of the policy on cross-selling would make use of bank branches as marketing outlets.

"This would definitely help the insurance industry. The only thing we want to make sure is that depositors are made aware that they are not deposit products," the BSP governor stressed.

The BSP had objected to the request of banks more than two years ago for authority to cross-sell after a number of banks and investment houses collapsed in 2000 as a result of pre-termination of deposits and placements.

One of the complaints of Urban Bank Inc. depositors when it closed in April 2000 was that they were made to believe that the investment papers they bought were deposit substitutes and other forms of deposits that were covered by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Banks had asked the BSP that they be allowed to sell non-traditional products as their profits erode due to lower interest rates and increasing level of bad loans.

Buenaventura said the BSP would have allowed banks to sell products even of non-affiliates but the General Banking Law provided that banks must be affiliated with the company where the non-allied products would be coming from.

"We decided to just provide them the maximum flexibility by agreeing to the definition of an affiliate to one that is at least 5 percent owned by the bank," Buenaventura said. The bancassurance policy, said the BSP, would encourage banks to invest in insurance companies and support the central bank's bid for more mergers and consolidation in the financial sector.

Buenaventura said that banks teaming up with insurance firms also needed to get the approval of the Insurance Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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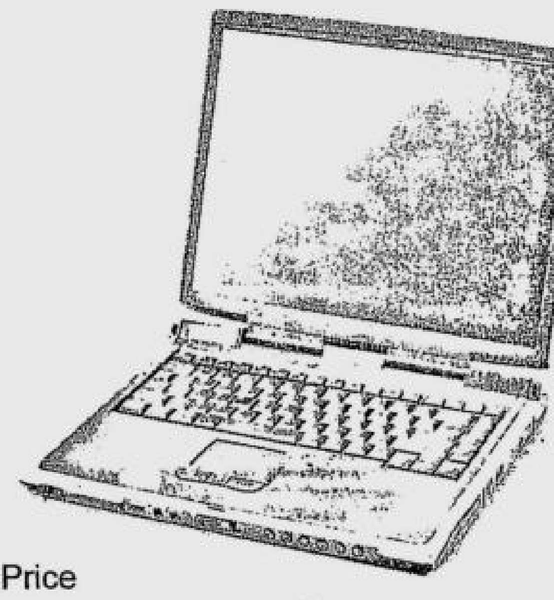

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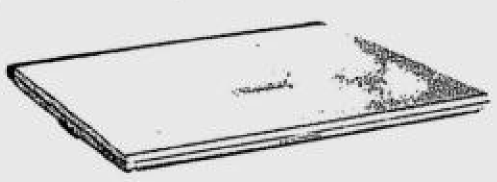

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Enrile an 'ostrich with head buried in sand,' First Gas says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE TOP executive of First Gas Power Corp. has likened former Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile, one of his company's most vocal detractors, to "an ostrich with its head buried in the sand."

In statements made before the Senate committee on public services, First Gas chief executive Peter Garrucho Jr. said Enrile was wrong when he assumed that First Gas had yet to generate a kilowatt to cover the needs of its customers.

Garrucho recalled that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself attended the inauguration of the Malampaya gas-to-power project on Oct. 16 last year.

"(Reports of the event were) splashed in the front pages of all the daily newspapers the following day," he said. "One had to be like an ostrich with its head buried in the sand to have missed out on that event and to have concluded that not one kilowatt of electricity was generated."

Garrucho assured that First Gas' 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita power plant could deliver enough electricity to its sister firm, Manila Electric Co.

The power plant, he stressed, has been crucial in paving the way for the multibillion-dollar local natural gas industry.

Garrucho also took exception to Enrile's allegation that First Gas was instrumental in Meralco's supposed scheme to overcharge its customers.

In an earlier committee hearing, Enrile alleged that Meralco and First Gas conspired to bill their customers between December 2000 and January 2002 a total of P14.7 billion worth of electricity that First Gas did not deliver.

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GLOBE LAUNCHES USAGE-BASED DSL SERVICE FOR SMEs / SOHO

Globe Telecom has launched the country's first usage-based digital subscriber line (DSL) Internet access service for individuals, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and small office/home office (SOHO) customers who want high bandwidth Internet connection at a lower cost.

Instead of the regular fixed monthly charges, subscribers availing of usage-based broadband will only be charged for the number of hours used.

"The advantage of this is that customers get to manage their Internet usage or cost without sacrificing quality of service. SMEs, SOHOs and other businesses that still use dial-up now have the chance to use broadband Internet without the price barrier. They can also scale up their Internet speed as their need grows," said Jesus C. Romero, Globe assistant vice president for business communications.

According to Romero, Globe Quest DSL will be offering pay-per-use broadband in two packages - DSL Lite for multiple users and DSL Solo for individual users. These services use Globe's Business Class Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) infrastructure to deliver broadband access.

He pointed out that SMEs and SOHOs that demand large volumes of data, video and sound files over the Internet will benefit from a bigger Internet bandwidth to bring higher productivity and efficiency to their business.

Even for big corporations with offices located in different areas, DSL can be utilized for communication and data sharing, he added.

"This could be very cost-efficient for the company. Broadband applications such as video conferencing or data sharing would prove very useful to their growth and progress," he said.

Romero said that DSL connection could, likewise, serve the needs of executives, entrepreneurs and other individuals who require high-speed Internet access to conduct business.

GlobeQuest DSL Lite provides an upstream and downstream speed of up to 1.5 megabits per second (Mbps) for a monthly service fee of P2,500 which comes with 20 hours of free Internet access. Excess usage is P2 per minute.

On the other hand, GlobeQuest DSL Solo provides upstream and downstream speed of up to 384 kbps. There are two DSL Solo variants available: First is the usage-based package with a monthly service fee starting at only P1,500 for 30 hours of Internet access. For the usage-based package, excess usage beyond 30 hours is P1 per minute and with a maximum monthly charge of P3,000 for unlimited use within a one (1) month period. The second package has unlimited access for only P2,500 a month. All rates are VAT inclusive.

GlobeQuest Solo will be initially offered in Globe's Metro Manila service areas, namely Ortigas Center, Makati City and Mandaluyong City.

GlobeQuest DSL currently offers DSL Pro and Basic for corporate clients. It is available in Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Libis and outlying areas as well as in Metro Cebu and Metro Davao.

Romero said that increasing market awareness for the new technology has prompted the company to expand its services.

Concurrent with the introduction of these new offerings, Romero also unveiled the start of the GlobeQuest DSL Checkered Flag Promo --- a Formula One (F1) inspired promotional campaign to invite prospective clients to sign-on for the service.

"New clients who will sign-on for any of the GlobeQuest DSL packages by October 31, 2002 will get a chance to win exciting F1 gear from GlobeQuest including a top prize for an all-expense paid trip for two to the F1 race in Malaysia's Sepang circuit on March 2003," Romero said.

DSL is a technology that delivers high-speed Internet access. Using existing telephone lines, DSL delivers download speeds of up to 50 times faster than regular dial-up modems. It allows data and voice to pass through the same line simultaneously.

"We are confident that the implementation of DSL here in the Philippines would soon find its way to offer alternative ways to bring broadband to the market," Romero said. Adv.

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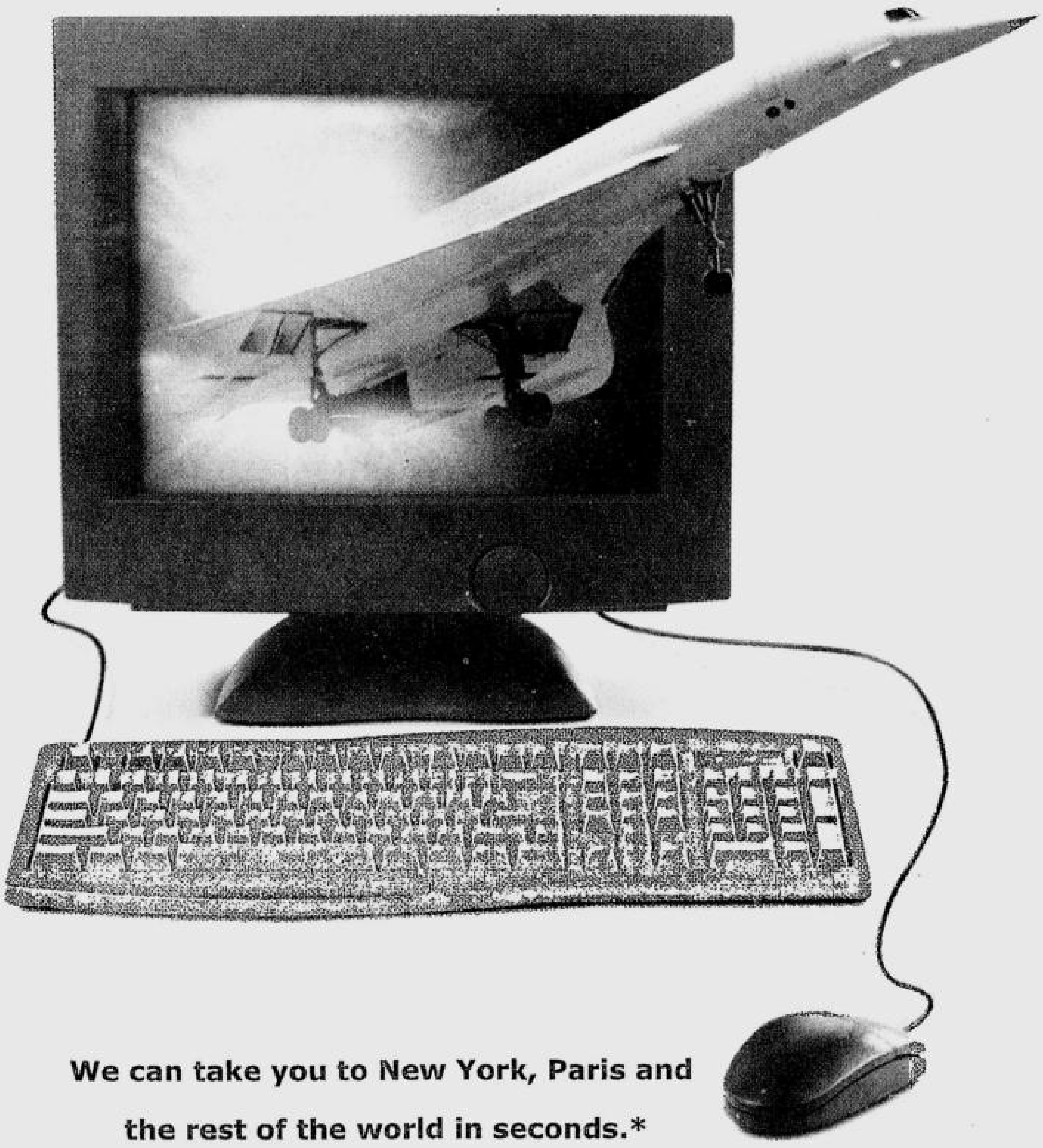

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LOWER AVERAGE VOLATILITY

BSP says peso 'relatively stable'

By Clarissa S. Batino

DESPITE its fall to a 14-month low of 53.29 to a dollar last Friday, the peso can still be considered relatively stable compared with last year's levels and the foreign exchange fluctuations then, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura, however, admitted that the conditions this year were worse than last year. "If last year was bad, this year is terrible."

Although the conditions were bad for the other economic indicators particularly the budget deficit, the peso's movement seemed less affected. The BSP chief said the peso was relatively steady posting an average volatility rate of 4.8 percent in the first six months, compared with the 17.6 percent in the same period last year.

The fluctuation rate from July to September stood at 5.1 percent, still lower compared with the 6.5 percent in the third quarter of 2001.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the volatility average was a measure of the rate of the peso's fluctuation. "The lower the rate is, the more stable the peso is," he explained.

The peso shed 1.7 percent of its value in the first half of the year compared with an increase of 21 percent in the first six months of 2001.

While the peso registered a 1.2- percent improvement in the third quarter, this was much lower from the 15.9-percent appreciation during the same period in 2001.

Last year's seemingly outstanding performance of the peso was only a result of having come from a low base as the local currency was under much pressure during the uncertain rule of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"Despite the difficulties this year, the foreign exchange is more stable," said the BSP chief.

The government has to contend with the growing budget deficit that has been one of the factors weighing the peso down. The nine-month budget gap was estimated to reach between P155 billion and P160 billion.

Last year, the peso acted up from June to August prompting the government to implement measures such as the four-percentage-point increase in the banks' reserve requirement to 20 percent and the reduction to $5,000 of the ceiling for undocumented dollar transactions.

On July 18, 2001, the peso fell to an intraday low of 54.335 to $1 but closed at 53.70 after the central bank reportedly sold as much as $80 million of its dollar reserves just to end the supply bottleneck that caused the local currency's fall.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the huge dollar remittances from Filipino overseas workers would inject more dollar supply into the spot market and address the volatility.

Tetangco stressed last Friday that the central bank was prepared to impose measures including intervention to ensure stability in the foreign exchange.

DMCI restructures bulk of ₱2.4B worth of debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

DMCI Holdings Inc., the flagship construction company of the Consunji family, has restructured the bulk of its P2.4 billion worth of convertible preferred shares that fell due in April this year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, DMCI chief finance officer Herbie Consunji said the company had "addressed almost all of these debts and only a very 'negligible' portion—estimated to be less than one percent—has yet to be restructured."

Consunji said the bondholders exercised the different options presented by DMCI such as the following:

- purchase by DMCI of the preferred shares at P1,000 per share through secured five-year promissory note, with a grace period on principal payments during the first two years of obligation;
- purchase of the shares by subsidiary DMCI Property Developers Inc. at P1,367 through a secured seven-year promissory note, with a grace period on principal payment for the first three years of obligation;
- exchange of preferred shares at P1,100 per share for certain residential and office units; and,
- redemption of the preferred shares by DMCI at P775 per share or equivalent to closing price up to a maximum of P72 million.

For the month of September, DMCI redeemed some of the preferred shares. Some minority bondholders, however, complained of not being given equal treatment vis-a-vis bigger bondholders.

In an earlier interview, businessman Willy Tieng complained that minority bondholders like himself were being "short-changed" because they did not have the same leverage as bigger bondholders. He particularly cited DMCI's redemption of preferred shares held by Insular Life, which he claimed was given preferential treatment.

Consunji, for his part, said DMCI was willing to look into the complaints of the minority bondholders if the complainants would get in touch with the company.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has approved the extension of the listing of the P2.4 billion convertible preferred shares up to April 8 next year to pave the way for the restructuring talks between the company and the bondholders.

PSE tells bourse to list next year

By Elena R. Torrijos

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista said the Philippine Stock Exchange would have to list next year.

Bautista said the listing of the PSE, which will widen the bourse's ownership base, would be one of her top priorites next year.

Bautista said the SEC itself would be the direct regulator of the issue.

The PSE had earlier promised to list this year but later sought more time to prepare citing bad market conditions.

The PSE has become a demutualized exchange by converting into a stock corporation from a mutual organization. The Securities Regulation Code, however, provided that the exchange must not have more than 20 percent of its stock owned by one industry group.

At present, the PSE is still 100 percent owned by brokers and dealers although the majority of its board is now controlled by non-member brokers.

The PSE will have to develop an effective business plan for divestiture and a separate one for self-regulation.

The multilateral agency also noted that a divestiture strategy, meanwhile, would make the exchange attractive to other stakeholders or institutional participants in the domestic financial markets.

Trading seen to remain sluggish

From page B1

"The issue is still the peace and order situation. There are also continuing concerns over the peso depreciation and the budget deficit," Claudio said.

"Local investors are still looking at the 980 support level because we've already breached 1,030," he said, noting that should the bombings worsen, the index might fall further.

"You need all these things to settle down because the market ca attract buyers. This week will be a cooling off period," he said.

Claudio said the market would likely await developments both on the peace and order, and the corporate front during the first half of the week.

"Hopefully, reports will show stable corporate earnings results," he said.

ATR Kim Eng Securities agreed that the market would be vulnerable to any kind of bad news this week, probably testing the psychological support of 1,000 and technical support of 980.

BPI Securities also said the market's bearish sentiment had been heightened further by the latest incidents of violence here and abroad. As such, it said investors would remain cautious even if the market had hit oversold levels.

However, we think that the current correction should be viewed as an opportunity to accumulate stocks. We expect strong support at the 980 to 1,000 range assuming that the current situation does not worsen further in the coming week," it said.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	18	131,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,009,200
China Banking Corp.	620	625	620	625	10,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	26.5	27	54,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32.5	31	31.5	133,200
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	26,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,100
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11	11	9,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	17.75	17.75	26,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1185	1185	1185	1185	1,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	960	950	960	7,980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	26,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	407.5	407.5	405	405	11,730
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	42,000
Piltel	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	950,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	235	235	229	230	125,140
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	15,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	22	21.25	21.75	963,300
Petron Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	1,002,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	185,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	438,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	722,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	125,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	221,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc	32	32.5	32	32.5	47,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	54.5	98,900
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	59.5	58.5	59	201,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	30,000
Vitarich Corp	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	4,050,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.32	2.22	2.28	15,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	18,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	3,280,000
DMCI Holdings Inc	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12.25	850,700
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	63	63	63	63	11,100
Macroasia Corp	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Megaworld Corp	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	380,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.165	2,150,000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	790,000
Music Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	25,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1	1.18	1	1.18	44,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.5	17.5	17	17.25	508,500
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	7,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	4.8	4.9	24,055,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	590,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	1,460,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	220,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	4,782,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	12,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	130,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	420,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	86,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 88; NO. OF TRADES: 1,769

CURRENCIES

Jan. 01, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.029760	1.000000	52.857000
Japan	Yen	0.008244	0.008006	0.423200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597570	1.551400	82.002300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.132036	0.128220	6.777300
Switzerland	Franc	0.681013	0.661332	34.956000
Canada	Dollar	0.655773	0.636821	33.660400
Singapore	Dollar	0.576476	0.559816	29.590200
Australia	Dollar	0.566580	0.550206	29.082200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.731676	2.652731	140.215400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274588	0.266652	14.094400
Brunei	Dollar	0.574868	0.558254	29.507600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023592	0.022910	1.211000
UAE	Dirham	0.280382	0.272279	14.391900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.971100	51.329400
Argentina	Peso	0.290073	0.281690	14.889300
Brazil	REAL	0.266088	0.258398	13.658100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134582	0.130693	6.908000
India	Rupee	0.021311	0.020695	1.093900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.271026	0.263193	13.911600
Mexico	New Peso	0.103156	0.100175	5.294900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495100	0.480792	25.413200
Norway	Kroner	0.134612	0.130722	6.909600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017483	0.016978	0.897400
South Africa	Rand	0.099965	0.097076	5.131100
Korea	Won	0.000827	0.000803	0.042400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109565	0.106399	5.623900
Syria	Pound	0.023297	0.022624	1.195800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029548	0.028694	1.516700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000752	0.000730	0.038600

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	ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000.00	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000.00	-
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	-	70,000.00
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	100,000.00	Please call
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY*	375,000.00	-
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	150,000.00	Please call
FONTANA "C"	100,000.00	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600,000.00	Please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	-	10,000,000.00
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	Please call	10,000,000.00
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,550,000.00
MIMOSA (Ind.)	125,000.00	-
MT MALARAYAT "C"	Please call	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	Please call	-
PUEBLO DE ORO	400,000.00	-
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	70,000.00	-
ROCKWELL CLUB	400,000.00	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	Please call	-
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150,000.00	Please call
SPA & LODGE*	600,000.00	Please call
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,600,000.00	Please call
SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB	-	Please call
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS*	-	750,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	300,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	6,775,000.00 all in	Please call
OTHERS	Please call	-

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ALABANG "A"	1,500,000	ALABANG "A"	Call now
ALABANG "B"	1,600,000	BAGUIO CC	Call now
BAGUIO CC	720,000	CANYON WOODS	180,000
CALATAGAN "A"	90,000	CC AT TAGAYTAY	350,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	270,000	FOREST HILLS "A"	200,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	380,000	MANILA POLO	2,500,000
MAKATI SPORTS "B"	260,000	MLA STHWOODS "A"	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000	MLA STHWOODS "B"	570,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	600,000	MT. MALARAYAT (CORP)	450,000
MLA STHWOODS "B"	650,000	STA. ELENA "B"	1,850,000
ORCHARD CC "A"	Call now	TAGAYTAY HLANDS GOLF	800,000
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now	VALLE VERDE	140,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,620,000	VALLEY GOLF	290,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000		

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CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	65,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,500,000	-
Baguio Country Club	650,000	-
Camp John Hay	245,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	100,000
Canyon Woods	190,000	Pls. Call
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	75,000
Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	170,000
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	180,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	550,000*	450,000*
Eastridge "B"	170,000	-
Evercrest	135,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills "A"/C"	220,000/250,000*	180,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,550,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	240,000
Manila Yacht Club	610,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/720,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	-	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	140,000	100,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	350,000/450,000*	-
Orchard Golf A/ Corp*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	180,000/380,000*	110,000
Riviera Golf "B"	Pls. Call	130,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"*/"C"**	95,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/"B"	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	290,000	-
Subic Golf	145,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	330,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	6,500,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	Please Call
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	-	200,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	210,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	105,000
Evercrest "A"		100,000
Forest Hills "A"		220,000
Forest Hills "B"		250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	225,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,550,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"		130,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		150,000
Mimosa (Individual)		120,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"		1,625,000
Sta. Elena "B"		1,900,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	280,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	7,300,000

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Credit card companies: Fine-print fiends?

From page B1

After a month, Santos received his bill and found out that the 1.5-percent monthly interest was actually, based on net present value computation, 2.64 percent a month or 31.72 percent a year.

On his P10,000 loan, Citibank charged him P983.33 on the first month. This was computed by dividing the principal amount by 12—it was a 12-month loan—which would total P833.33, plus the 1.5-percent interest on the principal amount or P150.

Santos explained that with such a structure, Citibank was actually charging a rate close to 3 percent a month, as it would keep on charging this particular borrower P983.33 a month even if the principal amount was actually diminishing.

By the second month, the interest rate of 1.5 percent should have gone down to P137.5 based on a reduced principal amount of P9,166.67. Even when the principal amount would have been down to P833.33 on the 12th month and the 1.5-percent rate should have been but a measly P12.50, this was not the case with Citibank, according to Santos.

Disgusted with Citibank, Santos pre-terminated his loan after the first month.

Not deliberately misled

Citibank NA, 'the world's largest financial group, denied that it deliberately misled Santos.

Santos' complaint was forwarded by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to Citibank.

"Please be assured that it is our policy to fully disclose to all cardholders offered the 'Call for Cash' product, its features and their corresponding obligations," the bank said in a statement.

"To ensure this, the cardholders are advised of the exact amount they will have to pay every month, depending on the amount they will borrow and the term they will choose. They are also informed of the interest rate that will be charged on the borrowed amount. All our customer communications materials attest to this," it added.

A flyer of the "Call for Cash" promo indeed showed that a P100,000 loan to be paid in a year would have to be settled by a monthly fee of P9,833.30 with a 1.5-percent interest a month.

Santos denied that he was advised of the structure during his conversations with Citibank's telemarketer. He said the monthly payment was only explained to him a month later by an account officer when he was already complaining about the product.

Citibank, which accounts for 18 percent of more than three billion local cardholders and 30 percent of total credit card transactions, said the "Call for Cash" promo had been well-received by valued clients. There had been no formal complaint from anybody, it said.

Cecille Fonacier, a vice president and marketing director for Citibank, said a random survey of "Call for Cash" subscribers showed that 65 percent were willing to tap the facility again when needed and only 2 percent said they were no longer interested.

The "Call for Cash" promo, which started in January, Fonacier explained, was a spin-off of Citibank's "Paylite" promo, which allowed subscribers to amortize, usually in 12 months, the cost of an expensive appliance or even school tuition.

Citibank justified its structure, saying even some bank loans actually impose the interest rate on the principal amount, and that these were amortized for a certain period.

Truth in lending

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, head of the central bank's supervision and examination department, said he was not familiar with any such regular bank loan, although the structure was somewhat similar to the compounded interest rate applied to most real estate borrowings.

"When banks do that, they tell their clients. They do not disguise a very expensive loan to be a cheap borrowing," Santos said.

"Even the flyer claimed that the cost of the loan is 1.5 percent per month. This is misleading. At least with loan sharks, you know exactly what you are up against," Santos added.

"Whatever happened to the Truth in Lending Act?" he asked. "The last time I checked, it was still in place," he added.

Truth in Lending requires banks and financial institutions to always reveal the true and effective cost of the loan to a borrower lest they be penalized.

Celebrating consumer month in October, the central bank is still trying to determine whether there was any violation from Citibank in relation to Santos' case.

Others shrugged off this issue as just another consequence of the growing competition in the credit card industry and Santos, just another victim. *(To be continued)*

MasterCard sets year-end target at 2.4M cards

MASTERCARD International said last week it would issue more credit cards in the Philippines by year's end, placing its estimate at 2.3 million to 2.4 million from 1.8 million last year.

In a news briefing, MasterCard International vice president Jose Rene Villa-Real estimated that billings of its credit cards this year would likely rise to around $800 million from some $670 million as of end-2001.

Villa-Real disclosed that proprietary cards, such as Bankard and Unicard, and the cards of the now-defunct Far East Bank and Trust Co. and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. were now using MasterCard brands.

These have given MasterCard 280,000 in additional cards issued over the past two years.

Villa-Real said MasterCard was holding talks to convince three more banks to issue its products.

This year, Banco de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy signed an agreement to issue MasterCard credit cards.

Last week, AIG Credit Card Company Philippines launched a new credit card in exclusive partnership with MasterCard. The new product is specifically designed to meet the needs of women.

The AIG Dolce Vita Credit Card features an expanded range of health care services such as free maternity reimbursement, pediatric consultations, unlimited women-specific consultations, dermatological consultations, unlimited administration of vaccines for children, ultrasound laboratory examinations and dental benefits. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DOTC seeks help to check smuggling

WHILE seeking a more progressive and investment-friendly shipping industry, the government is also striving to curb smuggling in seaports and ensure the safety of people and goods that move by sea.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the private sector should participate in the government's efforts to make sea travel safer and prevent the country's seaports from becoming breeding grounds for corruption.

"I would like to enjoin your cooperation in eliminating the scourge of smuggling. This is one of the two major mandates I received from the President." he said in a speech before shippers in Mindanao.

"For the part of the government, we shall continue to be vigilant in the ports and sealanes. But we know your cooperation is the most vital part in our campaign," he added.

He said he had already held talks with various shipping industry leaders to ask for their cooperation and at the same time warn them that the government was ready to mete out severe penalties for shippers that would form partnerships with smugglers.

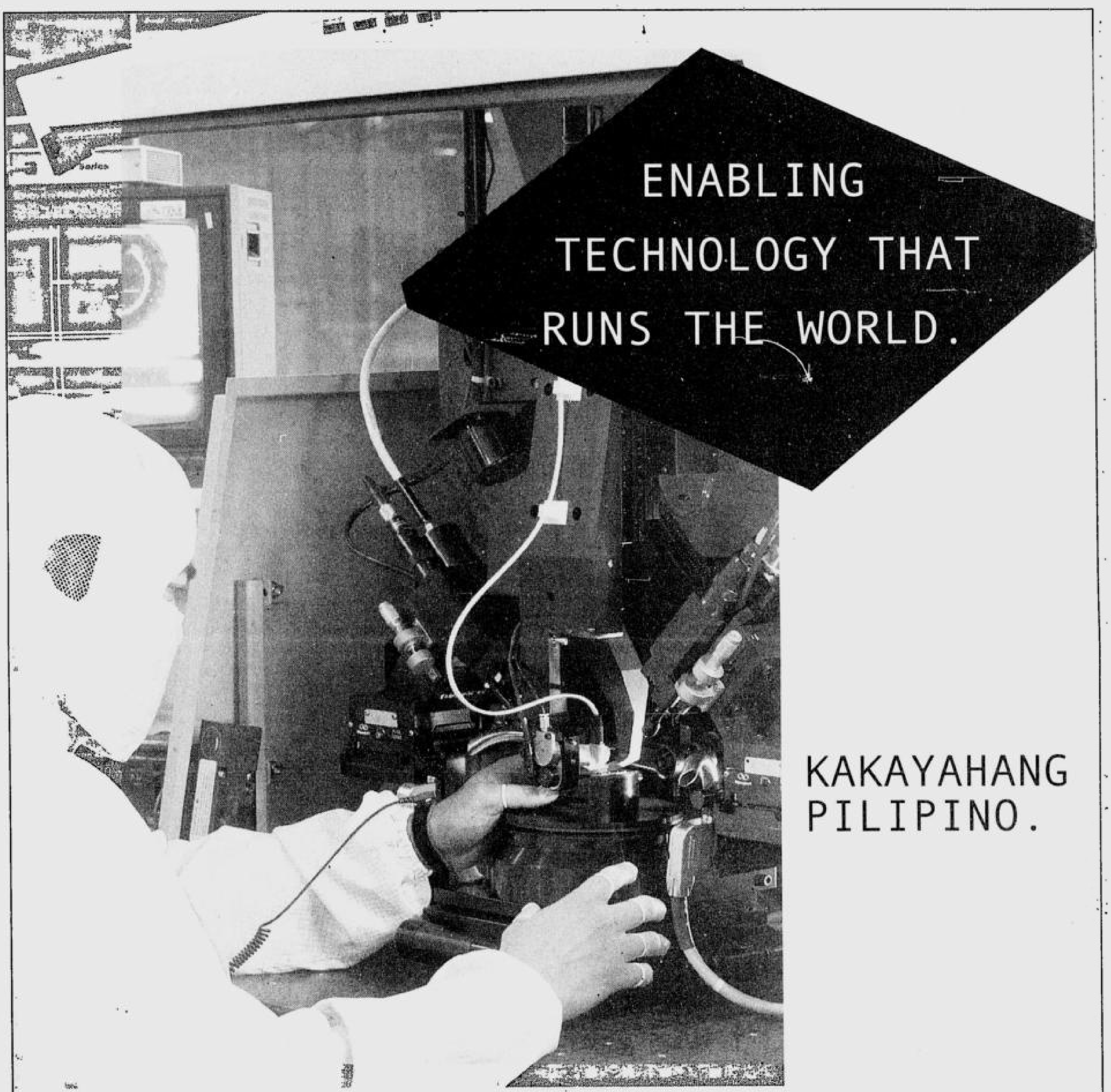
These penalties include immediate revocation of franchises to operate and even more severe criminal penalties.

"This is a not a threat. This is a promise," he said.

The Department of Transportation and Communications, in cooperation with shipping industry organization Maritime Industry Cluster, is now pushing for the passage of several bills that will give local ship owners and ship builders more incentives and tax exemptions.

These bills include those tackling the modernization of domestic shipping, the promotion of equity ownership in overseas shipping and the revision of the maritime mortgage law.

The passage of these bills will help propel the country's shipping industry forward as these will make the maritime industry environment more attractive to investors, Mendoza said. *Abigail L. Ho*



Pagdating sa electronics, tunay na maaasahan ang husay at galing ng manggagawang Pilipino.

Marahil ay 'di ninyo alam, pero dito sa Pilipinas ginagawa at binubuo ang maraming electronic components at products na ginagamit sa mundo. Gaya nga ng Digital Signal Processor (DSP) na main component ng mga cellphones, ang Pentium processor na "brain" at disk drives na "memory" ng mga computers, ang Electronic Braking System (EBS) na safety feature ng mga sasakyan at ang servo controls na nagpapagalaw sa pakpak ng mga eroplano. Ang mga produktong electronics na ito, at marami pang iba, ay mahalagang mga export products na ipinapadala sa iba't-ibang dako ng daigdig tulad ng America, Europe at Asia.

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MIDDLE EAST REPERCUSSIONS

BSP sees slower export growth if US attacks Iraq

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has estimated that export growth next year will slow down to 8 percent from a Cabinet-approved target of 10 percent if the United States attacks Iraq.

Growth in imports is also expected to slow down to 10 percent from a target of 11 percent in 2003.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the central bank's estimates placed next year's export receipts at $36.11 billion from an initial estimate of $36.781 billion.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said an export growth slowdown to 8 percent next year assumed that the conflict between the United States and Iraq would escalate into a full-blown war.

The United States is the Philippines' biggest export partner, accounting for 30 percent of the country's total exports.

The central bank leads a technical group that estimates and tracks the country's export performance.

Trade is one of the components of the country's balance of payments, a record of all transactions made by the Philippines with other countries during a certain period. The balance of payments includes trade balance, foreign investments and investments by foreigners, among other things.

The central bank expects export growth to exceed the government's target of 4 percent this year, as overseas sales of locally produced goods have already risen by an average 7 percent as of August.

Export growth contracted last year by 15.7 percent.

The government expects the country's export earnings to grow by at least 4 percent to $33.437 billion by year's end.

As of July, earnings from merchandise exports have risen 6.9 percent to $19.86 billion.

BSP, SEC outline joint examination plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

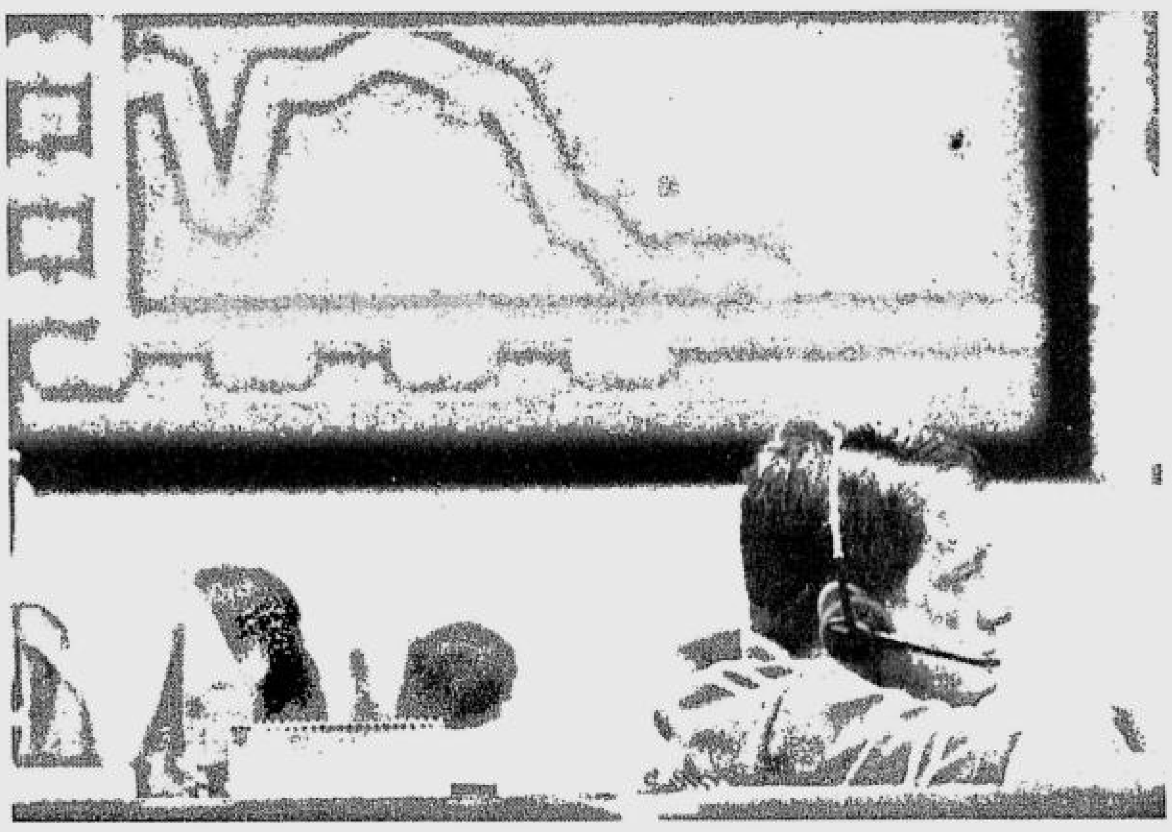
SECURITIES regulators and central bank officials are set to jointly examine investment houses under their jurisdictions.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would soon amend a memorandum of understanding between them so they could jointly examine the books of investment houses that they both regulated.

The existing MOU between the SEC and BSP does not provide for a joint examination. It simply clarifies that the BSP is responsible for the supervision of investment houses and other subsidiaries and affiliates of universal banks, which are also registered with the SEC.

Bautista told reporters that the SEC and BSP would come up with an "action plan" and procedures for joint onsite inspections of investment firms that they were both regulating.

The two agencies will also standardize regulatory and operations reports filed with them.



A TRADER takes a break, as the electronic board shows a downward graph at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Shares ended with a new 11-month low on Friday, spooked by a grenade blast in Makati earlier in the day and the sharp fall of the peso against the dollar in morning trading, traders said. The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 1.2 percent at 1,027.67, its lowest close since Nov. 20, 2001. Traders expect the index to continue falling this week on more concerns over the peace and order situation in the country.

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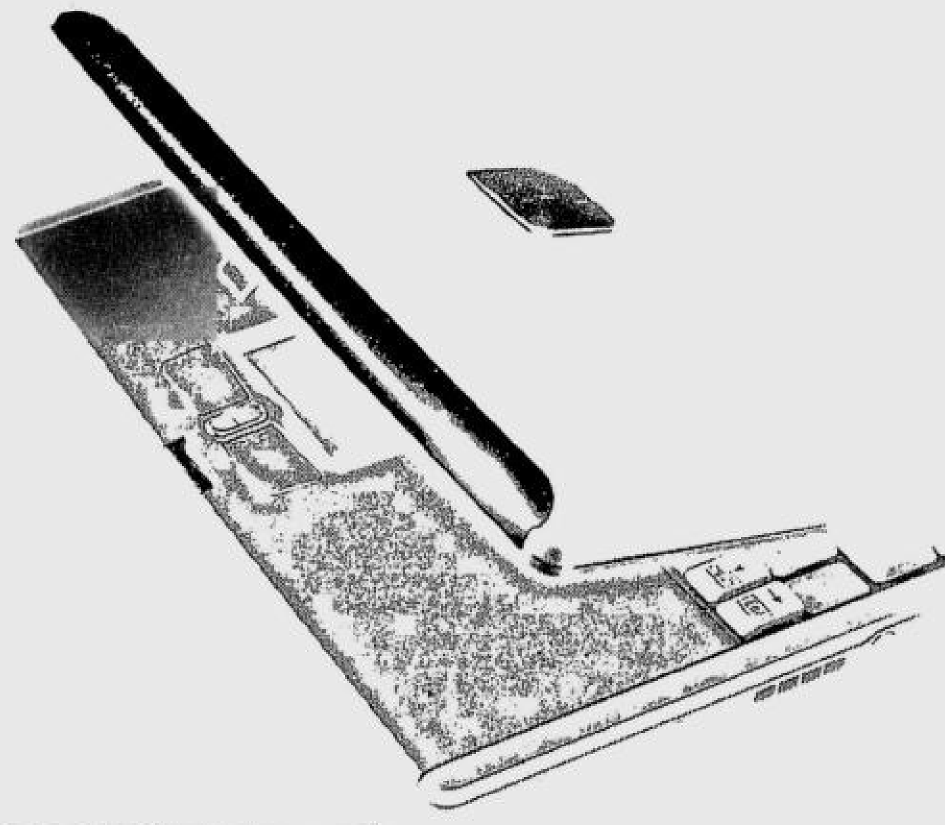

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Source PC Magazine, August 2002

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Vehicle dealers warn buyers of Subic imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S biggest association of vehicle dealers has issued a warning to all buyers of second-hand vehicles brought into the country through the Subic Bay Freeport.

The Philippine Automotive Association said buyers of used sport utility vehicles or vans that were imported through Subic were liable for back duties and taxes.

They are also facing serious problems in renewing the registration of their vehicles once the courts declare that second-hand vehicles passing through Subic are illegal imports, the group added.

The PAA claimed that the duties and taxes on used vehicles were based on their invoice value upon their entry into Subic, not on the auction price upon their sale to non-Subic locators.

Companies operating within Subic are allowed to bring in used vehicles from abroad at zero taxes and duties.

However, the PAA claims that when a used vehicle is sold to non-Subic locators, the duties and taxes are based on the import value, which is substantially lower than the vehicle's sale price.

Since importation transpires only when traders sell a vehicle to a local buyer, the duties and taxes should be based on this sale transaction. the PPA argued.

A government official, who requested anonymity, said the Bureau of Customs had already taken note of the discrepancy in valuation,

World Bank tells RP not to rely too much on IT

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES should not rely too much on the volatile information technology sector and should instead tap the huge export potentials offered by mining and agriculture, the World Bank has said.

In a recently released report on its country assistance strategy for 2003 to 2005, the World Bank said the Philippines should diversify its exports to promote a more broad-based economic growth.

In 2001, the country's export earnings contracted by about 15 percent, as its biggest dollar earner—the electronics manufacturing industry—was battered by a US-led global slowdown.

The World Bank noted that export growth of Philippine crops, with the exception of a few such as mango, banana and rubber, had significantly declined in the last decade.

"Mineral exports, which have the potential to generate more than $1 billion in export earnings and $400 million in tax revenues, have languished," it added.

The World Bank urged the Philippine government to allow 100-percent foreign ownership of domestic mining firms and issue clear environmental standards, safeguards and monitoring procedures.

These actions could mobilize the investments required to fully tap the economic potential of the mining sector, it said.

"Private entrepreneurship and investment also need to be more widely dispersed. While the National Capital Region will continue to be the growth pole, increasing private sector activity in backward regions is essential," it said.

Investments in W. Visayas down

ILOILO CITY—Western Visayas continues to experience a slowdown in investments inflow despite a robust growth in the tourism industry, government statistics showed.

The regional economic situation report of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) for the second quarter of this year pegged the total investments in the region at P1.41 million.

The figure is 14.6 percent higher compared with the previous quarter's P1.23 million. But the figure reflected a 48.7-percent drop from P2.75 million in the same period last year.

The number of business firms monitored during the quarter decreased by 45 percent to 1,452 from 2,638 in the previous quarter. This was 4 percent off the 1,513 firms registered in the second quarter last year.

The value of investments registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission also decreased from P43.79 million in the second quarter last year to P24.56 million in the same quarter this year. This was also 10 percent lower than the previous quarter's P27.34 million.

The number of SEC-registered firms dropped by 30 percent from 202 in the previous quarter to 141. This was also lower by 16 percent compared with the 168 firms registered in the same quarter last year. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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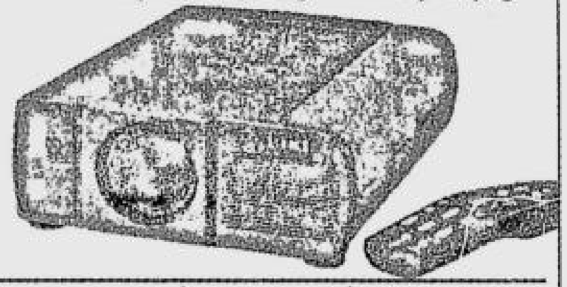

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Gov't urged to raise 2003 deficit target to ₱160B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THIS early, the government is already under pressure to raise its budget deficit target for 2003 to at least P160 billion.

Some policymakers are also pushing for a delay in the government's zero-deficit target, saying this may have to be set back by at least two years.

A senior government source said the country's economic managers should start looking at a more realistic target for 2003 to avoid placing the government in an awkward situation where it had to defend an unreachable target.

The government had been hoping to contain its budget deficit to P130 billion by year's end.

In August, however, it already breached this mark after official figures placed its deficit at P144 billion.

People familiar with the matter said the deficit probably widened to between P155 billion and P160 billion last month.

The Development Budget Coordinating Committee has forecast a P142.1-billion budget deficit by end-2003.

However, this estimate is based on the assumption that this year's deficit will be contained at 4-percent of gross domestic product.

Most analysts expect the deficit to hit P180 billion this year. At this level, the deficit will already represent 4.7 percent of GDP, affecting projections for 2003.

"With a 5-percent GDP growth, I believe next year's deficit will realistically hit P160 billion, or about 3.7 percent of GDP," a government official said.

Simulations done by the government place next year's expenditures at P782.8 billion and revenues at P640.7 billion.

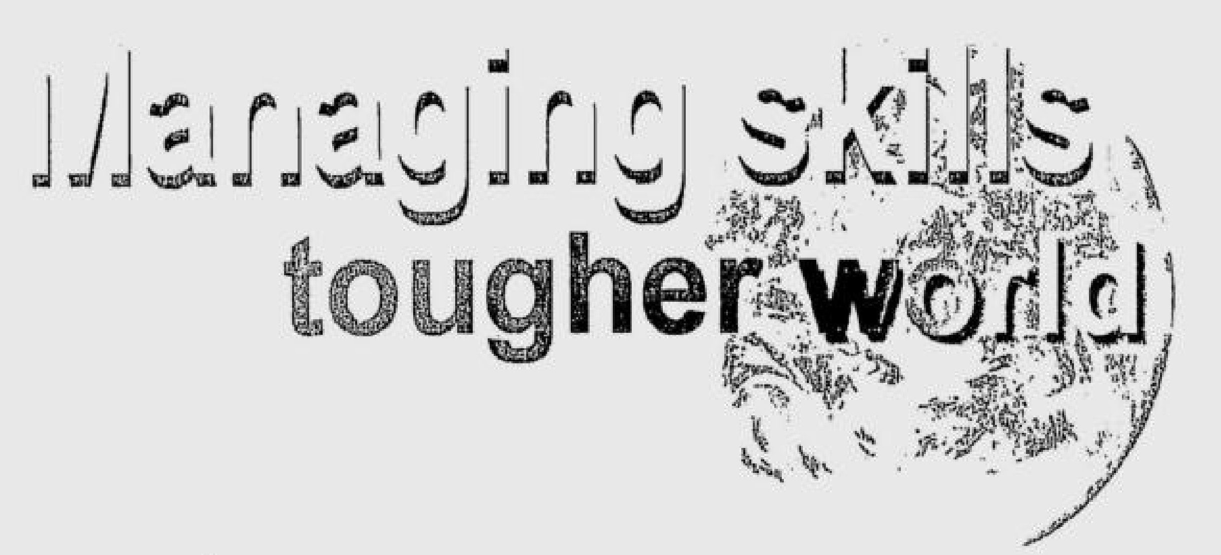
"The government must also move back by two years the target of achieving a balanced budget by 2006," the official said.

Based on its medium-term plan, the government is hoping to bring its deficit down to zero, if not post a surplus, by 2006.

Since 1998, the government has been posting budget deficits, as it had been unable to sell at a premium key assets because of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis that brought down Asia's banking system.

The government tax take as a percentage of GDP also fell, as companies reeled from the impact of the financial crisis, while widespread corruption and tax leaks remained unsolved.

This year, weak revenue collections, coupled with aggressive spending during the first half, had resulted in a higher deficit.



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Nov. 11, 2002 (Monday)
Effective Interpersonal Communication
ALAN BARKER, Chairman, Strategic Consulting Services (Worldwide)
A successful manager is an effective communicator. But how does one communicate effectively with others? What are the components of this critical competency? What standards are applied to determine whether one person is a superior or average communicator? The answers will be revealed in this session.

Nov. 12, 2002 (Tuesday)
Coaching and Counselling Skills (Workplace Setting)
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
Coaching and counselling skills enhance emotional intelligence, a key factor in career success. This presentation will cover the following: difference between coaching and counselling, when and when not to use them, steps in conducting coaching and counselling and expected outcomes.

Nov. 13, 2002 (Wednesday)
Strategic Thinking Tools for Managers (Overview)
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.
Managers need to think of how to align their function with the other areas in the organization. They have to appreciate not just the micro view but also the macro prospective considering the impact on the enterprise of the external environment and stakeholders. The talk wil provide an overview of the latest thinking in strategy management and implementation. It will enhance their need to pay attention to the bottomline results of today but also how to

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TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

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Korea building Asia's CDMA belt

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BUSAN, South Korea—Thirty million of South Korea's 47.3 million people subscribe to a cellular phone service. With a penetration rate of 63.8 percent as of the first quarter of 2002, South Korea ranks seventh in the world's Top 20 mobile/Internet index rankings dominated by European economies.

It is second of four Asian countries that made it to the list of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Unlike these countries, however, South Korea veered away from the GSM platform (global standard for mobile communication) and, regardless of skeptical views, decided to adopt code division multiple access, or CDMA, as its standard for its mobile phone service.

CDMA enables transmission at high speeds that yield high-quality streaming videos and huge data packets.

CDMA belt

Now, South Korea wants to build the CDMA belt in Asia and lead the rest in the race to bring to the region third-generation mobile phone technology.

"China and India are key targets," said Jung-Taik Oh, executive director of the Korean Information Society Development Institute (Kisdi) during a news briefing here.

Kisdi is a government-sponsored research institute attached to the Office of the Prime Minister of Korea and tasked to develop communication and information policies.

Jung said China and India had yet to decide officially which standard to adopt, and South Korea had been focusing on them.

With more than 2 billion people, the two countries make up a fourth of the world population and are strategic markets to expand the CDMA standard and build the CDMA belt in Asia, according to Jung.

Full blast on 3G

Jung told the INQUIRER that South Korea is ready to go full blast on 3G.

He, however, said it might take time for others to follow, especially those using the GSM standard, as the cost of switching technologies was high.

He said operators would have to recover investment costs first before moving on to 3G.

For China and India, Jung said he was optimistic that the CDMA standard would be adopted.

South Korea is the first in the world to adopt the CDMA standard, having embraced the technology even when it was still in its "theory stage."

Backed by a test done by Qualcomm, an American company that proved CDMA technology was feasible for mobile communications, South Korea went on to develop the new standard with government policies and private-sector initiatives moving in the same direction.

Korean info infrastructure

In 1991, the Korean government designated the development of a digital mobile communication system as a national project and fast-tracked the implementation of the Korean Information Infrastructure (KII).

A major component of KII is the connection of 144 major call areas nationwide through fiber optic cables that were completed in 2000, two years ahead of schedule.

In 1992, it adopted CDMA as its standard. Private companies like Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics and Hyundai Electronics, on the other hand, decided to co-develop CDMA handsets.

In 1995, commercial tests of CDMA were made and in 1996, CDMA was commercially launched in the world.

With 6.828 million subscribers during its first year of operation, the number grew 500 percent in five years.

In September 2000, South Korea also successfully launched its CDMA 2000-IX network and improved data transmission speeds to 144 Kbps.

This too signaled the commercialization of 3G services. Cutting-edge handsets for use of the CDMA 2000-IX and wireless Internet also came out in the market.

Commercializing country

As of June 2002, Korea's Ministry of Information reported that mobile phone users who subscribed to wireless Internet service had reached 27 million, while those using the CDMA 2000-IX services had reached 10 million.

In terms of average revenue per user in wireless Internet alone, mobile operators saw a drastic increase from 1,104 Korean won ($1) at end 2000 to 2,261 Korean won (about $2) by the end of 2001.

As the "commercializing country" of the CDMA, Korea now commands an average $10 billion a year in exports of mobile communication systems and devices.

South Korea's domestic handset manufacturing firms like Samsung and LG Electronics cover about a 50-percent share of the global CDMA market. For 2001, exports of handsets alone reached $7.2 billion.

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As a stockholder, please be informed that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in SEC Case No. 07-97-5693 entitled "In the Matter of the Petition for the Declaration of Suspension of Payments, Approval of a Rehabilitation Plan, and the Appointment of a Management Committee" issued its Orders dated 02 June 1999, 17 and 19 August 1999 and 29 November 2000 approving a Rehabilitation Plan for Victorias Milling Company, Inc. ("VMC") and the amendments thereof (the "SEC Orders").

Reduction of Capital Stock

Pursuant to the SEC Orders, VMC filed its application with the SEC for the amendment of its articles of incorporation for the decrease and increase of its capital stock, the certificates, for which, were issued by the SEC on 02 October 2002. In accordance with the approved Rehabilitation Plan, the authorized capital stock of VMC has been reduced initially from Two Billion Seven Hundred Million Pesos (₱2,700,000,000.00) divided into Two Hundred Seventy Million (270,000,000) shares with par value of Ten Pesos (₱10.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares, with a par value of Two & 91/100 (₱ 2.91) per share.

The par value of the share of stock of VMC was then further reduced from Two & 91/100 Pesos (₱ 2.91) to One Pesos (₱1.00) per share, and simultaneously, thereto, the subscribed capital stock of VMC was increased from One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Pesos (₱170,432,189.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares at One Peso (₱ 1.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at par value of One Pesos (₱1.00) per share through a stock split.

Thereafter, VMC's authorized capital stock was increased from Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at a par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share to Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight Pesos (₱2,563,035,708.00) divided into Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight (2,563,035,708) shares of common stock at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share.

Accordingly, your existing shares in VMC which have a par value of ₱10.00 per share will be cancelled and in lieu, thereof, you shall receive, upon surrender of your certificates of stock, such number of shares of VMC equivalent to your present shares multiplied by Two and 91/100 (2.91) shares at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share as a consequence of the reductions in par value and the stock split.

Surrender of Old Stock Certificates

You are hereby granted until 02 December 2002 to surrender your old stock certificates. Should you have further questions on this matter, please direct your queries to any of the following:

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Should you fail to do so within the given period, the Corporate Secretary shall automatically convert the shares of stock registered in your name as reflected in the Stock and Transfer Book of VMC as of 02 October 2002 and credit the resultant shares by virtue of the stock split in your name. Please be advised that VMC stock certificates bearing the old par values of its capital stock must first be surrendered and replaced by the new certificates prior to any transfer or sale of the shares covered thereby.

Please be further advised that on 02 October 2002 the SEC approved the quasi-reorganization of VMC pursuant to its Approved Rehabilitation Plan in order to reduce VMC's existing deficit of ₱7,718,960,481.00 as of 31 August 2001.

Kindly inform VMC of your **new address** to enable us to send future notices and communications to your correct address.

Please be guided accordingly.

NILO A. FLORCRUZ (Sgd.)
Corporate Secretary

RECORD LEVELS

US trade deficit balloons by 10% to $38.46B

WASHINGTON—The US trade deficit soared nearly 10 percent in August to a fresh record as the value of imports jumped on higher oil prices and as firms stockpiled foreign goods amid a labor dispute at West Coast ports, government data showed on Friday.

The trade gap mushroomed to $38.46 billion in August from $35.07 billion in July, the Commerce Department said.

Exports fell for the first time in six months and demand for foreign consumer goods pushed imports to their highest level since March 2001.

"We bought an awful lot more of everything in August but unfortunately the rest of the world didn't reciprocate," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa.

Analysts said the larger trade gap may ex ert a drag on gross domestic product growth in the third quarter but many are still projecting a strong rate of GDP expansion, in the area of 4 percent.

In another piece of reassuring news, a sep arate report from the Labor Department showed U.S. inflation was tame in September, with consumer prices rising only 0.2 percent overall and 0.1 percent in the closely watched core component that strips out food and energy costs.

Financial markets viewed the trade and inflation reports as having mixed implications for the economic outlook and so did not show a big reaction to them.

Stocks rose on Friday, with the market recording its second week in a row of gains. The Dow Jones industrial average increased 47 points to 8,322. Bond prices also rose.

Although growth in the trade deficit often weighs on the dollar, the US currency managed to gain ground against the Japanese yen, hitting a new four-month high. The improvement in stocks bolstered the greenback.

The trade gap exceeded the average fore cast of $35.58 billion that analysts gave ahead of the Commerce Department report. Excluding the US surplus for services trade, the deficit for goods was $42.27 billion, also a record.

However, Naroff said it was difficult to tell whether the trend of ballooning trade deficits would keep up or whether the data has been skewed by the docks dispute at West Coast ports.

Reuters

US retailers face critical holiday season

CHICAGO—With the US holiday shopping season shaping up to be mediocre at best this year, the big question is not whether stores will run out of PlayStations, but which of the once-mighty retailers may fall.

Flagging consumer confidence, a steady stream of war rhetoric and uncooperative weather all point to more disappointing sales for the critical holiday season, which accounts for a big chunk of profits, piling pressure on retailers already struggling with fierce competition.

For bankrupt discounter Kmart Corp., a poor holiday shopping season may mean the end of the road is near. Banks have promised enough money to get through next year's Christmas season but, after that, all bets are off.

"I think Christmas is going to be fair to middling for everybody, and for Kmart quite difficult," said Bill Brandt, president and chief executive officer of restructuring firm Development Specialists Inc.

Once Kmart gets through the cash-generating holiday season, it will need to restock its shelves. Vendors will likely want some form of payment guarantee from lenders—who may not be accommodating, Brandt said.

"If you are the lender, you are at a point where you swallow hard and decide, 'Am I going to let the loans drift back up?'" he said. "If it's November, December and same-store sales continue to be as dismal as they are now, it won't take a soothsayer with a crystal ball to determine how difficult those meetings (with lenders) will be."

Kmart said its merchandise assortment, including Joe Boxer and Martha Stewart Every Day, would give it a strong holiday season offering.

"Kmart's vendors continue their strong support," said Kmart spokesperson Jack Ferry. "Our liquidity remains better than planned, and we are working on our 2003 business plan." The company said last month that its balance sheet cash position stood at about $830 million as of Aug. 28, of which about $500 million represented cash at stores and outstanding checks. It had $1.45 billion in debtor-in-possession financing available at the end of August.

Reuters

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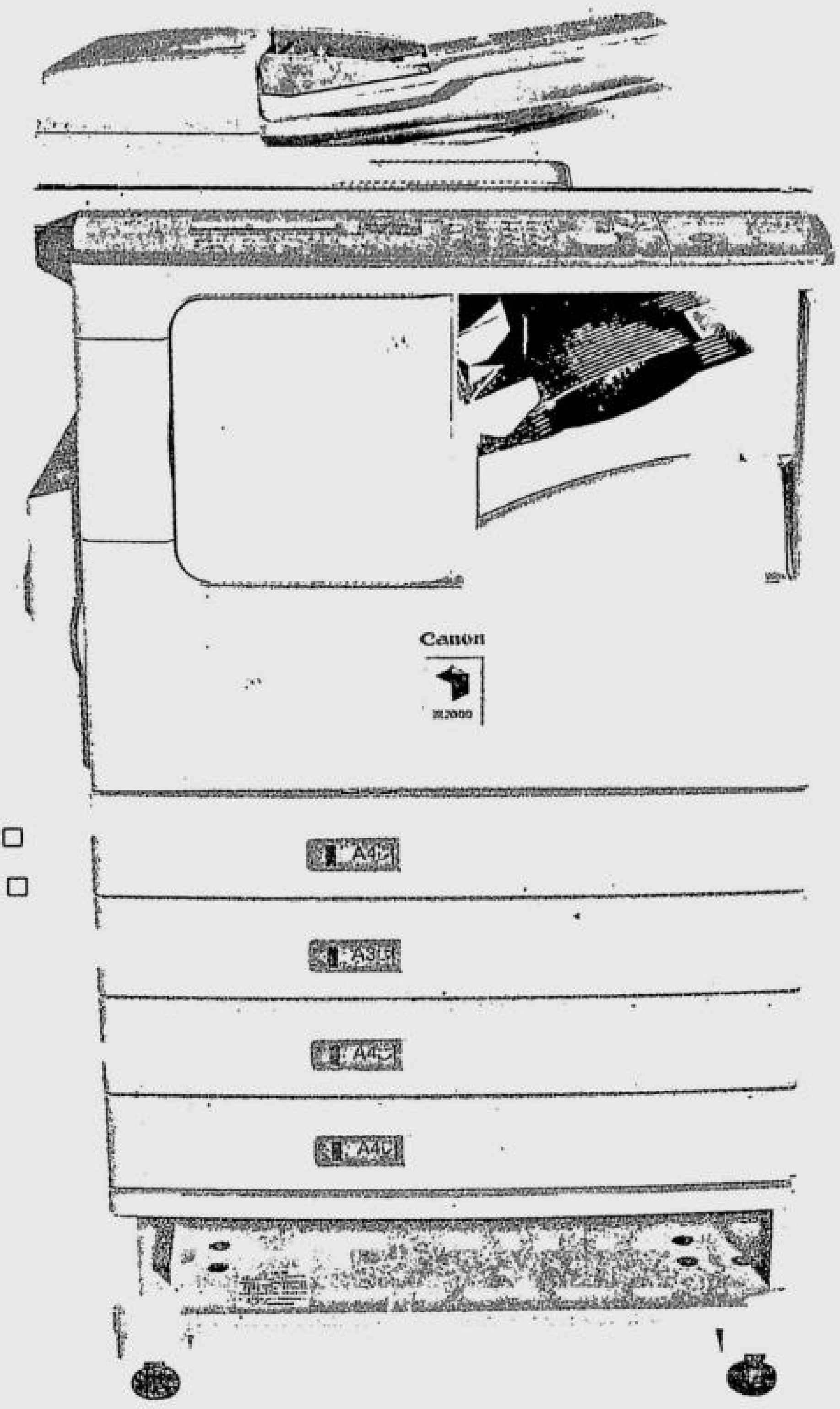

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Fed official says US economy remains 'fragile'

NEW YORK—In a downbeat speech, Boston Federal Reserve Bank President Cathy Minehan said on Friday the US economy remains fragile even without any new shocks, and consumer spending may be starting to wobble.

In comments that broke with the tone of cautious optimism expressed by other Fed officials recently, Minehan said the economy remains a fragile balancing act between optimistic consumers and pessimistic businesses.

"But how long can the consumer hold out? The risks here seem firmly on the downside," Minehan said in prepared remarks to the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce in Massachusetts.

Her comments sounded far more pessimistic than most of her colleagues at the Fed who have spoken in recent weeks. Fed Governor Ben Bernanke said this week the economy was still in good shape, and Minneapolis Fed President Gary Stern said the risk of falling back into recession was low.

Minehan's reasons for caution spanned several sectors of the economy. She said business confidence was low, suggesting private firms would not be the "cavalry" to rescue the economy, and there was not much help from other areas either.

Real estate investment was showing signs of stagnation, strong federal government spending was being offset at the state level, and the rest of the world was likely to provide little help, Minehan said.

"Even without further blows the economy remains fragile," said Minehan.

Minehan is not a voting member of the Fed's policy committee this year. But her comments are interesting because the Boston Fed is normally considered one of the more "hawkish" regional Fed banks, a term that suggests a greater worry about inflation and a leaning towards higher interest rates.

In another signal of concern, the Boston Fed made a rare request for a cut in the Fed's lesser used discount lending rate in August, according to minutes of the meeting.

Minehan's comments had little impact on the bond market, which was trading quietly after huge losses this week. *Reuters*

SOLUTIONS EXIST:

The Plastics Industry and Polymer Industry are Inextricably Linked that Neither Can Survive Global Competition Without the Other

"For lack of a vision, a people perish."

Sowing division instead of unity. Some members of the downstream plastics industry call for the denial of the polymer industry's petition to **maintain** the AFTA-CEPT tariff rate of 15% for imported polymer resins on the grounds that most plastic tariff lines have been slashed to 5% and that imported finished plastics products have been flooding the Philippines since the slashing of the said tariff rates. Unfortunately, the downstream plastics industry is being diverted from pushing for the increase of tariffs on AFTA-CEPT plastic products on the basis of unfounded fears that there is no solution to their tariff dilemma. Thus, they advocate for the collapse of the midstream polymer industry by asking for the slashing of AFTA-CEPT tariffs for imported polymer resins to 5%.

Solutions to the tariff problem of downstream sectors exist but the downstream industry must help themselves. The Philippine Government has recently announced that industries that wish to have their AFTA-CEPT tariffs reviewed can file their respective petitions with the Tariff Commission. There are mechanisms within AFTA that can increase tariffs on plastics. Aside from invoking the Protocol for modifications in tariff reduction schedules and the emergency provision under Article 6 of the CEPT Agreement, the government can also push for a protocol to exclude goods produced by the midstream (polymers) and downstream (plastics) industries from AFTA coverage in line with the "10 minus X" principle. The temporary exclusion of polymers and plastics would result in the adjustment of AFTA-CEPT tariffs for plastics to 15-20% while the tariff on polymers could be maintained at 15%. There is no reason why the plastics industry cannot avail of these remedies. But the first simple step of filing a petition lies with them.

Tariff is the critical factor for the polymer industry's survival. The polymer industry was established only 4 years ago with world-class and state-of-the-art technology licensed from the global leaders in petrochemicals (BASF, Union Carbide, British Petroleum and Tosoh) and with one of the most massive investments ever made in recent Philippine history. The polymer industry has invested almost $ 1 billion since 1997. This speaks of the polymer industry's intent to be fully competitive globally. There is still time for this strategic industry as China and Vietnam just recently broke ground for their petrochemical complexes. Also, our competitiveness over some of our ASEAN neighbors lies in the fact that by being a newcomer, we were able to buy the latest and cleanest technology.

The Government's Master Plan for the petrochemical industry specifically states that tariff, not fiscal incentives, is the critical factor in the viability of the industry. The Master Plan even recommended that tariffs on polymers be maintained at 20%. However, unlike foreign polymer industries that enjoyed tariff walls of as high as 30-40% for as long as 25 years, the local polymer industry was subjected to premature and uneven foreign competition when both MFN and AFTA-CEPT tariffs for polymers were slashed to 10% upon the industry's commencement of operations in 1997 (adjusted only to 15% in 1999). To survive, the polymer industry asks for the mere maintenance of the AFTA-CEPT rate of 15% for a much shorter duration of 8 years.

The plastics and polymer industries are inextricably linked and one cannot reliably exist without the other. An integrated petrochemical industry will enhance the competitiveness of all segments in the entire spectrum of the industry. As each sector gains further strength, it catalyzes the rest of the industry for growth. It is wrong to believe that one sector can stand alone in the face of global competition. Competing foreign products will be coming from countries that have integrated petrochemical complexes. Not only do their downstream sector enjoy unsecured credit, technical services, just-in-time delivery and other services from the midstream sector, they also enjoy contract pricing from the midstream that insulates them from wide fluctuations in times of regional supply imbalances. Without a midstream sector, Philippine fabricators will be vulnerable to regional spot market pricing that will never allow them to be competitive with imported plastic products whose resins inputs at contract pricing can be as much as 40% to 50% less than spot market prices.

Competitiveness of the downstream does not entirely depend on raw material tariffs but on the assurance of raw material supply. The downstream sector has to compete on the basis of their own delivery performance, quality of finished products, total processing cost and flexibility in product design. All these will require that fabricators have modern processing machines, good mould sources and mould maintenance systems, excellent throughput with minimum wastages and high labor & machine productivity. The other aspects of production will also have to be addressed such as power costs, fuel and transport charges, working capital and interest costs. However, the downstream industry cannot survive without a stable supply of raw materials that can only be provided by a local polymer industry.

A strong midstream sector will make the downstream more competitive. But if the polymer industry is lost, it will only be a matter of time before the downstream meet the same fate.

The loss of the polymer industry is detrimental to national interest. The collapse of the industry will result in:

- Supply insecurity especially since it is projected that local and regional excess capacity will disappear by 2005 as demand increases. In the absence of its own local industry, the country will always be at the end of the supply chain especially during cyclical shortages;
- Higher, erratic and unstable prices;
- Higher trade deficit and drain on foreign currency reserves especially since polymer and plastic demand is projected to increase exponentially;
- The Philippines will again miss an opportunity to have a fully integrated petrochemical industry because the loss of the midstream industry will no longer make the establishment of a naphtha cracker plant viable.
- The country will also miss tremendous opportunities to develop other related industries such as monomers and intermediates
- The permanent loss of the industry's substantial contribution to the economy:
  - The US$1 billion investments in existing polymer plants;
  - Annual foreign exchange savings of US$70-100 million;
  - Annual P250 million in taxes paid to local and national governments;
  - Employment to 5,000 Filipinos with annual expenditures for salaries and local services of half a billion pesos a year;
  - Employment opportunities for the country's engineers, chemists and technicians; and
  - Potential to deploy further investments of P50-P75 billion in additional backward and forward integration projects.

In unity, there is strength. But fomenting division only insures our collective defeat.

Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP)

WorldCom to give bonuses

WASHINGTON—Bankrupt WorldCom Inc. on Friday proposed giving 325 of its key employees about $25 million in bonuses to stay with the company while it reorganizes under bankruptcy protection, but excluded the four most senior positions.

While the company did not identify the four slots, it likely refers to chair Bert Roberts and the chief executive officer position, held presently by John Sidgmore, who has said he would step down once a replacement is found.

The 325 employees—divided into three groups—would receive bonuses ranging from $20,000 to $125,000, equal to 35 percent to 65 percent of their annual base salaries, according to the proposal filed with the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Additionally, there would be a $2.5 million pool for other bonuses to address unforeseen issues and send a positive message to the other employees in the company, according to a filing with the bankruptcy court. *Reuters*

United posts loss

CHICAGO—UAL Corp., parent of No. 2 US air carrier United Airlines, on Friday reported an $889 million quarterly net loss on weak traffic and fares, capping a week of major airline losses.

The airline, under the gun to cut significant deals with workers on wage and cost concessions or else file for bankruptcy, also said it was making progress on a newly disclosed target of $5.8 billion in savings over 5-1/2 years.

UAL, struggling with high costs and lower demand for air travel, lost a record $2.1 billion in 2001 and another $850 million in the first two quarters of 2002.

In the third quarter, it burned through an average of $7 million in cash per day as the industry's fledgling recovery vanished but still ended up with $2.0 billion in cash. The fourth-quarter cash burn rate will be even worse because of seasonally weak demand and revenue, United said, forecasting a significant loss for the fourth quarter and full year. *Reuters*

Wall St. stocks likely to rise

NEW YORK—US stocks are likely to rise in the week ahead—if trends in earnings surprises for the current quarter and guidance for the next period continue to hold.

"A lot of money is sitting around at half a percent ready to go to work and people are looking for an excuse," said Clark Winter, chief global investment strategist for The Citigroup Private Bank, with $163 billion in assets under management.

"It's easier to talk about the market three to six months out, but if there are more good earnings surprises, and no astonishing surprises on the geopolitical front ... the horizon is positive." The week ahead will be the second rush week for third-quarter earnings with about 150 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index scheduled to post results.

Earnings so far have been robust, with the 203 S&P 500 index companies that have posted results showing 14.2 percent growth over the third quarter of 2001, according to Thomson First Call.

Although profit growth is expected to drop to 6.4 percent for the quarter after all companies have reported, investors are looking for any good news in the short term.

About 61 percent of reported results have exceeded analysts' forecasts, Thomson said, compared with an average of 57 percent of companies whose earnings beat expectations.

Better yet, the companies beating estimates, including the world's No. 1 software maker Microsoft Corp., and the world's largest automaker General Motors Corp., have done so by an average of 3.7 percent.

Investors are also upbeat about what companies have had to say about the fourth quarter.

"Earnings guidance will probably dictate the tone of the tape," said Jack Caffrey, equity strategist for the JP Morgan Private Bank, which oversees $245 billion in assets. *Reuters*

US, Hong Kong strike airline access deal

HONG KONG — US and Hong Kong aviation regulators agreed early Saturday to give airlines from both sides more access to each other's markets—including a code-share arrangement for Cathay Pacific Airways and American Airlines.

Few details were immediately available on the deal that was several years in the making, but the pact would also give US airlines—presumably those carrying passengers and cargo—more rights to fly into Hong Kong then onto other poiately provide more information.

The deal will allow Cathay to sell seats on American flights into US cities beyond its international gateways such as San Francisco—services it cannot operate with its own jets and crews because of US regulations.

"It's an extremely positive development for travelers between the United States and Hong Kong and Asia," said Al Becker, a spokesperson for American at its headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. A code-sharing deal with Cathay would "open the opportunity for us to introduce the American Airlines brand into the Hong Kong market," Becker said.

American does not fly to Hong Kong, but its biggest rival, United Airlines, has services between Hong Kong and the United States, as well as flights between Hong Kong and Tokyo and Singapore.

The US negotiators had been seeking greater rights for US carriers—both passenger airlines and cargo companies—to fly into Hong Kong and then onto points in other markets, posing a potentially strong competitive threat to Cathay and Hong Kong's No. 2 carrier, Dragonair.

Cathay said it was disappointed by that part of the deal, which Wong called a "clear, unbalanced exchange" that favored US airlines because Washington did not give Hong Kong's airlines equal access to the US market.

As the talks resumed early Friday, a spokesperson for the US Consulate General said they were going well. The two sides eventually went into overtime, wrapping up the package around dawn on Saturday, one day beyond the scheduled three days for the latest round of discussions. *AP*

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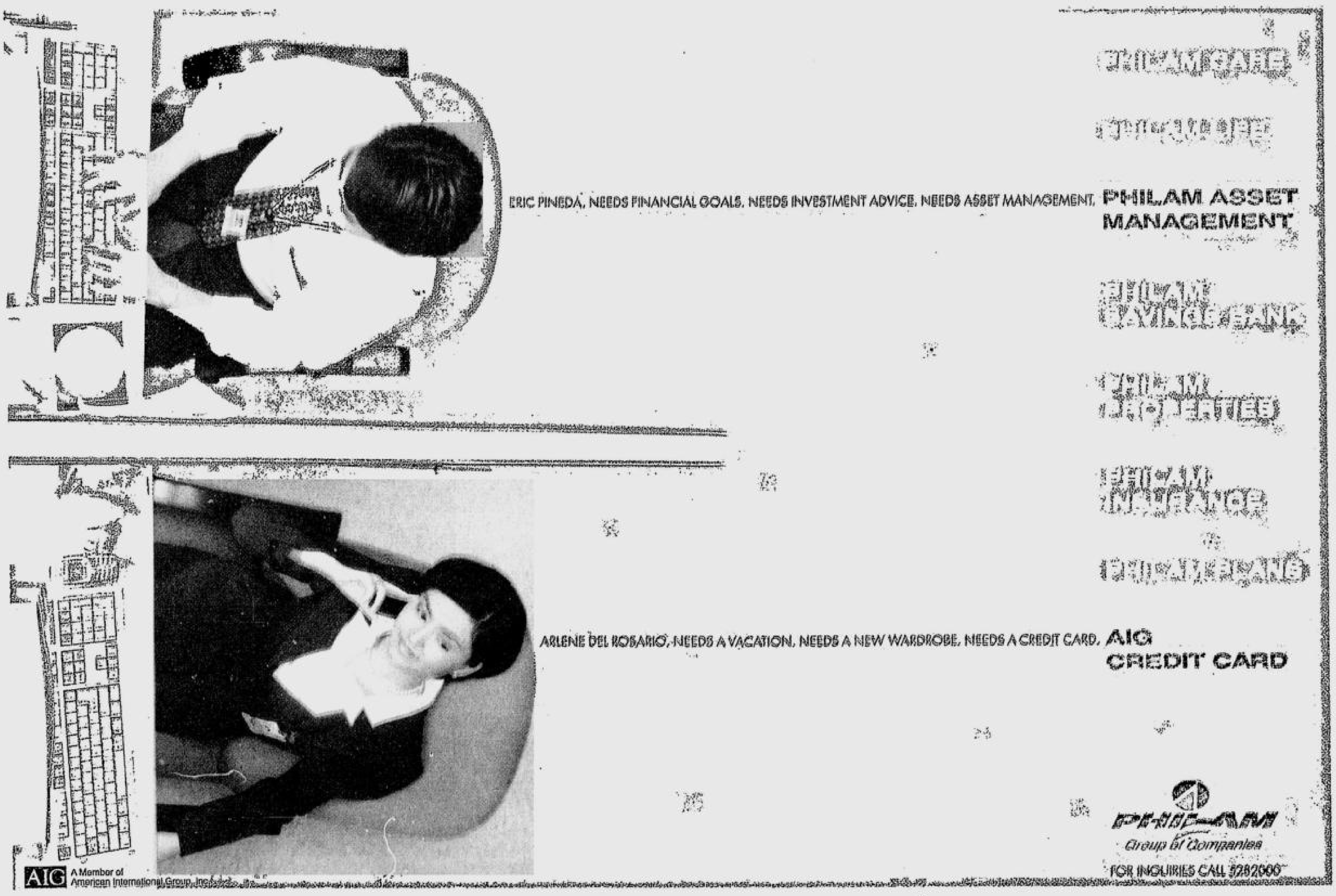

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People, Events & Products

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UCPB expands educational assistance to coco farmers' kids

UCPB said today its UCPB-CIIF Foundation has launched three new educational assistance programs for small coconut farmers and their children. UCPB-CIIF Foundation president Edgardo Amistad said the new programs are the College and Vocational Program (CoValue), the Coconut Industry Study Grants (COIN) Program and the Learn-To-Earn Post-Training Financing Project (LEAP).

The CoValue Program is open to high school graduates who obtained high scholastic marks in their junior and senior years and who wish to take vocational studies or pursue a full four-year or five-year college course. The program, which has already selected the first batch of 16 scholars, provides tuition and miscellaneous fees, book allowance, monthly stipend, dormitory fees, and a one-time thesis allowance.

The COIN program, on the other hand, is open to postgraduate students who intend to conduct pioneering studies related to the coconut industry. The program provides a study grant of up to P75,000 to qualified grantees. Priority will be given to those who will do technical studies on new uses for the coconut and its by-products. The possibility of engaging scientists and academics who have established track record in this field is currently being reviewed to enhance the viability of the research outputs under COIN.

Meanwhile, the LEAP program is open to those who wish to take short livelihood courses of less than one month in duration. Apart from the P2,000 training subsidy, the program also extends an additional financial assistance of up to P4,000 in low interest loans after the training so that the beneficiary can implement the learning he or she got out of the training course.

The three new programs are in addition to the 10-month Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura (Saka) scholarship program which the UCPB-CIIF foundation has been implementing since 1995. Sixty-four scholars have completed this program and earned certificates in farm entrepreneurship. They have since put up their own micro-enterprises. Another 14 scholars are currently enrolled in the program.

RP CONSUMERS CHOOSE BEST SOFT DRINK BRAND

Coca-Cola was recently awarded the National Consumers Excellence Award for Best Softdrink Brand by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and Who's Who in the Philippines Foundation. Coca-Cola was represented by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. senior assistant vice president Eric Montinola (2nd from left, shown receiving the award from keynote speaker Sen. Robert Barbers). Also shown are National Consumer Excellence Awards founder Jonathan Navea (left) and Gov. Justo Ortiz of the awards and executive committee. The event, which was held at the PICC, benefits a youth scholarship program and senior citizen's livelihood project.

PCTA
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CABLE BOSS SUPPORTS CABLE CONVENTION

The Philippine International Cable Convention gets a boost with the support of Cable Box Office Shows and Systems Corp. (Cable Boss). Cable Convention 2003 is set from April 9 to 11, 2003 at the Edsa Shangri-la Manila in Mandaluyong City. Shown signing the sponsorship contract are (from left) Baby Quizon-Zarate, sales and marketing manager, network distribution, Cable Boss, Tony Selda, convention over-all chair and director, Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA), Timothy Bautista, vice president, Cable Boss, and J. Manuel Dabao, president, PCTA. Cable Convention 2003 is the annual gathering of cable TV operators in the Philippines and the flagship project of PCTA.

RED HAT CHANNEL CONVENTION

Red Hat Asia Pacific and Touch Solutions Inc. presented Red Hat's products and services to key channel partners during the Join the Revolution Red Hat Launch Sept. 19 in Hotel Inter-Continental Makati. The presentation was led by Lum Choong Eu, Asean business development manager, Red Hat Asia Pacific, Anson Uy, president, Touch Solutions Inc. and Chris Sharp, managing director, Red Hat Asia Pacific.

Ateneo salutes 2002 Carlos Palanca awardees for literature

THE ATENEO de Manila University congratulates the faculty, alumni and students who won in this year's Carlos Palanca Awards for Literature.

The first prize winners and their respective categories are Marco Antonio V. Lopez (instructor, department of Filipino) for Maikling Kuwento, Alvin B. Yapan (instructor, department of Filipino) for Future Fiction, Nathaniel Joseph F. de Mesa (AB IS 2000) for One-Act Play and Genero R. Gojo Cruz (student MA Literature, Filipino) for Short Story for Children.

Second prize winners include Edgar C. Samar, (assistant instructor, department of Filipino) for Tula, Francis Joseph Tanglao-Aguas (assistant professor, fine arts program) for Full-Length Play and Joseph Patrick F. Arevalo, (BS MAC 2001) for Short Story for Children (Filipino).

Michael M. Coroza, instructor (department of Filipino) in the Sanaysay Category bagged the third prize.

BITS Clips

CFS October seminars

CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars this month: "Direct Selling" (Oct. 23, 1-5 p.m.) aims at making direct selling your cutting-edge tool in reaping profit; "Customer Service That Works" (Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) seeks to help frontliners keep customers coming back for more; "The Challenge of Creative Selling" (Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) deals with innovative methods of selling in view of the ever-changing market. Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

Aromatherapy seminar

PRACTITIONERS swear to the potency of essential oils to calm nerves and cause a general healthy feeling. A seminar on Aromatherapy set for Oct. 24 and 25, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center combines essential oils and massage techniques for optimum results, including aiding better blood circulation. Engineer Ramon Jose Golloso, a licensed alternative therapist, is the resource person. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709, 633-6728 or 637-4108 to 12 local 605.

Claret School reunion

IN CELEBRATION of Claret School's 35th Foundation Day, the Class of '79 will sponsor a benefit concert dubbed "Sarap Maging Claretian: A Retro Union Party" featuring one of today's hottest bands and foremost exponent in retro sound The REtroSPECT on Oct. 25. Reminisce on the music of the '70s and '80s. All alumni are invited. Sponsored by San Miguel Beer, this fund-raising project will benefit the Philippine National Red Cross Blood Program of Rosa Rosal as well as the Claret School of Tumahubong and the Claretian mission in Malusong, Basilan. For more details and information, call the Batch 79 alumni office at 928-1145, or call Jera Sison at 0916-3600557.

THE FULLERTON PLACE BLESSING

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) recently held the blessing of the model units of The Fullerton Place, RLC's latest residential condominium project, located along Aurora Boulevard, in between 15th and 20th Avenues, in Cubao, Quezon City. The event was attended by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (center), the guest of honor and special guest Quezon City Councilor, third district, Jorge Banal (left). They are shown being welcomed by RLC's high-rise buildings division general manager Danilo E. Ignacio. The Fullerton Place is a four 25-story prime residential condominium project which is soon expected to be a landmark in Quezon City.

IBM SOLUTIONS DELIVERY ALLIES WITH APC

IBM Solutions Delivery Inc. (ISD) recently launched an internship program with Asia Pacific College (APC), an educational partnership of SM and IBM Philippines dedicated to the development of systems and applications-oriented professionals. In line with APC's mission to provide students with a well-balanced computer science curriculum, ISD will be regularly providing APC students with extensive on-the-job training in several key applications development, systems design, and call center helpdesk projects. Both ISD and APC hope that this effort will provide student trainees with a unique opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience in actual commercial projects. Future plans include an educational exchange lecture series involving several IBM and ISD experts in project management, systems architecture, and applications development. Shown (from left) are Cora E. Amores, APC career and placement officer, Dr. Paulino Y. Tan, APC president, Noel M. Mendoza, ISD president and managing director, and Nicky P. Enriquez, ISD human resources manager.

MARKETERS GATHER FOR PMA'S 2002 AGORA AWARDS

The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the country's most reputable marketing organization, is now accepting entries to the 23rd Agora Awards to be held Nov. 29 at the Hotel Intercon. The Agora Awards is an annual event that recognizes outstanding individuals and companies who have attained excellence in marketing and contributed to the growth of the industry. The program also aims to encourage the drive for excellence in trade among its practitioners and to improve public opinion for the marketing profession. The categories are Marketing Company of the Year, Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship (small, medium, large) Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education, Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management, and Asia Pacific Agora Award for Excellence. Shown is the 23rd Agora Awards executive committee during a recent organizational meeting, composed of (from left) Henry Tenedero, category head for marketing education, Cergen Go, supplement chair, Nick Fontanilla, category head for marketing company of the year, Veronica Hizon, director-in-charge, Mylene Sazon, category head for marketing management; Dr. Nards Garcia, search chair, and Sarah Velasco, project coordinator. For inquiries on this year's Agora Awards, call the PMA Secretariat at 813-0466 and 892-3144.

Product FILES

Natural calamansi juice now in powder form

NO MORE squeeze, no more mess. No more storing calamansi fruits that lose freshness after a few days, even when inside the refrigerator. Now you can enjoy natural calamansi juice anytime, anywhere whole year round without slicing, squeezing and picking the seeds.

Fitrite Inc. introduces Cool Choice Calamansi (Philippine lemon) Powder, the first and only natural calamansi powder in the market today. It has no preservatives, no artificial flavoring and coloring, and no sugar added. You have a choice to add sugar or sweetener to your taste, or drink it unsweetened. Diabetic and health conscious consumers will surely like this.

Cool Choice Calamansi Powder contains only natural calamansi and has the characteristic taste and aroma of fresh calamansi fruit. Each 100-gram canister is equivalent to 4 kg calamansi fruit and makes 23 glasses or more of hot or cold beverage, costing a little over P4 per glass. And unlike other calamansi in sweetened liquid concentrates, Cool Choice doesn't need refrigeration after opening. Handling and storage is very easy.

Cool Choice Calamansi is naturally rich in Vitamin C, making it a healthy drink for young and old alike. It is exported abroad and is now available in leading supermarkets in Metro Manila, and soon nationwide. Also available is Cool Choice Dalandan Powder. For inquiries, call 367-2920 to 21, 367-2946 and 363-5061.

Year of losses looms for Europe's top firms

LONDON—A second straight year of losses beckons for Europe's top companies in 2002, but with benchmark indices down almost 28 percent so far this year, that's already discounted by stock markets, opinion tracker JCF said on Friday.

Less clear is just how markets will react once they turn their attentions to analysts' 2003 earnings forecasts, which have risen as expectations for 2002 have tumbled, largely because those forecasts are coming from an increasingly low base.

"Analysts will continue to downgrade their 2002 earnings forecasts right through to the publication of actual full-year results early next year, but all this is priced into the market," said Jacques Chahine, chairman of the Paris-based JCF Group.

"Zero growth (in 2002) would be great but it now looks like it will end up negative again," Chahine said.

JCF aggregates and analyses the company profit forecasts churned out by the investment banking industry.

Its findings show that analysts have consistently slashed their expectations since April, when recovery hopes peaked.

According to JCF data, which is calculated on a recurrent and pre-goodwill basis, consensus 2002 earnings growth expectations for the 600 European companies in the benchmark Stoxx index have now tumbled to 3.9 percent from a high of 17.4 percent in April.

On a "post-event' basis, which only covers analysts that have adjusted their forecasts in light of a firm's latest trading statement, aggregate earnings expectations for European blue chips are now down to just 2.9 percent, JCF data shows.

It's a different story for 2003, though.

On current readings, analysts expect European companies to lift their profits by just over 22 percent in 2003, compared to 2002—something that is greeted with derision in many quarters.

"No one actually believes that," said Robert Kerr, pan-European equities strategist at Bank of America.

For the time being, though, the focus is not on next year, and analysts remain happy to wait for more clues on the economy before adjusting their outlooks for 2003.

And with markets staging something of a recovery, investors appear willing to turn a blind eye. For now. *Reuters*

Sokor mulls economic stimulus

SEOUL—South Korea will take stimulus measures to bolster domestic consumption next year if the external environment deteriorates, although Asia's fourth largest economy remains on track, the finance minister said on Saturday.

Tax breaks would be expanded into a wider range of investments, given the prospect of a worsening global economy and war between the United States and Iraq, Finance Minister Jeon Yun-churl told a radio show in comments confirmed by the finance ministry.

His comments came a day after the presidential Blue House said the government had agreed at a meeting with business leaders to take some measures to counter overseas uncertainties such as higher oil prices and a delayed recovery in the global economy.

"We should keep boosting domestic consumption and raise exports," the Blue House quoted President Kim Dae-jung as telling business leaders on Friday.

He added that global conditions were worse than they were during the 1997-98 Asian crisis.

Following his remark, the presidential spokeswoman said in a statement: "We shared the view that aggressive countermeasures are needed, as uncertainties remain abroad and at home."

The measures include securing crude oil at a stable price against a possible war in the Middle East, containing higher consumer and property prices, and bolstering the stock market.

As part of the steps, the government would broaden low tariff policies on raw material imports to include a wider range of products.

Jeon maintained the ministry's forecast that the South Korean economy would grow 5 to 6 percent in 2003. *Reuters*

Avon Q3 earnings fall after charge

NEW YORK—Avon Products Inc. posted quarterly profits on Friday that were down 20 percent, mired by costs related to cutting jobs and shutting plants, but its shares jumped more than 7 percent as the company showed strength in its core beauty products business.

Avon, whose products include Anew and Skin-So-Soft, also stood by its earnings target for the year, excluding items, making it the third consecutive year of double-digit earnings growth, the company said.

The company's a third-quarter profit was $90.3 million, or 38 cents a share including a charge, down 20 percent compared with $114.6 million, or 48 cents, including unusual items last year.

Excluding items, the cosmetics giant's earnings were up 10 percent at $115.5 million, or 48 cents per share, above analysts' average forecast.

"The earnings look in line with our projections, there's strong unit volume growth and good solid operating profit growth," said Bill Steele, an analyst with Banc of America Securities. "If you're gaining market share globally and doing it profitably, that's probably a very good thing for investors." Avon, which is the world's largest direct seller of cosmetics, expects 2002 earnings per share of $2.30, excluding unusual items, and just a penny below analysts' average estimate of $2.31 per share, according to Thomson First Call.

Chief financial officer Robert Corti said in a conference call that Avon is confident it will meet its full year cash flow target of $500 million to $550 million even after its $80-million pension contribution this quarter. He also said the company may make another pension contribution this year.

Based on current spending plans, Corti expects full year capital expenditures to be in the range of $150 million to $175 million compared to previous guidance in the $200- to $225-million range.

Worldwide sales were up 3 percent to $1.45 billion compared with $1.41 billion in the year-ago period. Sales growth, excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, was 11 percent, and US sales rose 6 percent.

Beauty product sales in the US grew 9 percent, driven by strong double-digit increases in sales of skin care products and color cosmetics.

In Latin America, sales in the third quarter were down 14 percent in dollars, the company said, but were up 13 percent, excluding the impact of foreign exchange. *Reuters*

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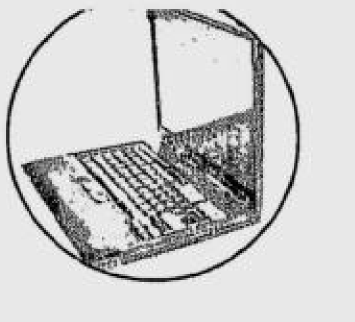

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INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested bidders to submit sealed bids for the sale of vehicles on **CASH, "AS IS, WHERE IS"** basis.

Description	Location	Min. Bid Price
1. Nissan Pathfinder Pick-up, Model 1993	Bataan	P 90,000.00
2. Mazda B2500 Series, Model 1998	Bataan	P140,000.00
3. Toyota Corolla Gli, Model 1994	Makati	P200,000.00
4. Toyota Hilux 2.8 D Pick-up, Model 2000	Makati	P580,000.00
5. Honda Accord, Model 1994	Makati	P310,000.00

Additional information and request for inspection may be secured at the above address from **October 15-29, 2002** c/o Mr. R.C. Ocampo in Makati with tel. no. 8106418; and in Bataan c/o Mr. R.C. Roque with tel. no. (047) 2447442. Interested parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS TWO HUNDRED (P200.00)** per set from the **PPDC-Disposal Committee.**

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on **November 15, 2002, 1:30 PM** at the PNOC-PDC, 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Public opening of bids shall immediately be conducted after the 1:30 PM deadline.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Deposit in the form of Cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check equivalent to at least 10% of each bid price, acquired from any PPDC accredited banks.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(PDI - Oct. 13 & 21, 2002)

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman, Disposal Committee

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the selection of proponents for the short or long-term lease of the

University of the Philippines Property at Barrio Cupang, Muntinlupa City

The University of the Philippines invites proponents to bid for the lease of its property, consisting of three contiguous parcels of land with a total area of approximately 38,943sq. meters located at No. 5 Kilometer 20, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Bo. Cupang, Muntinlupa City.

The said property is suitable for commercial/industrial development because of its strategic location. Inasmuch as the site is not a part of the academic or academic support zone of any campus of the University of the Philippines System, and thus is not suitable for academic use, there are no restrictions in continuing the utilization of the property for commercial and/or industrial purposes.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the UP System Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat. System Supply and Property Management Office, Administration Building, UP Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable P2,000 from **October 14-25, 2002.** Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **October 31, 2002.** After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified developers shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please call Mr. Eduardo G. Sabat at telephone number 926-4919 or e-mail at egsabat@up.edu.ph.

(PDI - Oct. 14 & 21, 2002)

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO
Vice President for Administration

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Makati City

ELIZABETH M. DUTONG, for and in her behalf and as representative of her daughter FLORELYN M. DUTONG and as natural guardian of her minor son FLORANGEL M. DUTONG,
Petitioners,
- versus -
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
NOLI M. DUTONG and
JENNIER M. DUTONG,
Respondents.
x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

SSC CASE NO. 12-15263-2001

SUMMONS

To: NOLI M. DUTONG and
JENNIFER M. DUTONG
3426 WEST VIGAN STREET
STA. MESA, MANILA

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Bldg., 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Amended petition filed by ELIZABETH M. DUTONG, ET AL., which in substance claims that she is the legal spouse and therefore, she and her children are the rightful beneficiaries to the benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Florante A. Dutong.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner, thru Atty. Crisostomo C. Albay, Unit 709, Garden View Tower, Garden Island Condoville, 34 N. Domingo/Granada Sts., New Manila, Quezon City, and upon public respondent SSS thru the Senior Vice-President of the Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the Amended petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.
Makati City, Philippines, October 9, 2002.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

AUCTION

On the Instructions of D.M. Consunji Inc.

MOTOR VEHICLES; PRINTING EQUIPMENT; CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS; BUILDING GONDOLAS; ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT; PUMPS; AIR CONDITIONING/CHILLER UNITS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAPS

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MOTOR VEHICLES - NISSAN PATROL Reg. PRW-567, Black (1994); TOYOTA COROLLA Reg. PMB-693, White (1989)
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CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS - Gypsum Boards; ROCKWOOL Insulation; Acoustic Board, B.I. Elbows, Tees; Wyes; Large Qty. of Galvanized Channels; Metal Frames; Studs, Base Track; Runners; Strainers; Tile Grout; PVC Pipes, etc.
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT - High Tension Wire Protective Insulators; Large Qty. of Fuse Boxes, Power Supplies, Panel Boards, Flourescent Lamp Fixtures; Halogen Lamp Housings, etc.
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ON VIEW: WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2002
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
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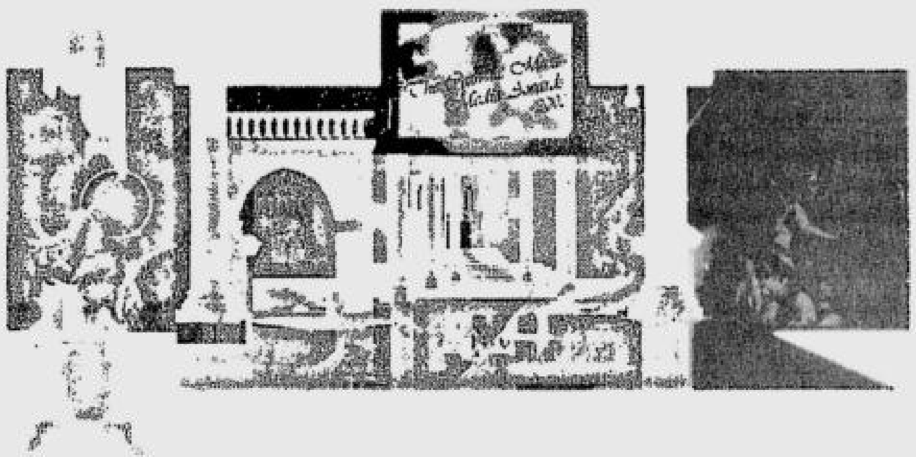

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Pascuala Cabuñag Orteza

(May 17, 1929 – October 20, 2002)

We, her children and grandchildren,
Bibeth, Carlitos, Aya and **Rafa;**
Neal, Emy, Melissa, Patsy, Trina and **Bela;**
Butchit, Jeway and **Daphne;**
Eunice;
Joey, Luz and **Lena;**
Eli-bong;
Bombet and **Ria**

ask you
to join us in thanks
for the love she gave us
and the laughter that came with being
Waray.

Her remains lie in state at the
La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial
Park Compound
in Sucat, Parañaque.
Interment will be on Thursday,
October 24, 2002, at 4:00 p.m.

"Jesus died for us so that,
whether we are awake or asleep,
we may live together with him."
I Thessalonians 5:10

You are gone but for us you never left....
God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.

So Dearly Remembered

On the Eight Death Anniversary of

ERNESTO RODIL REGIO

Of Torrijos, Marinduque and Quezon City
Who joined his Creator on October 22, 1994

Masses will be offered tomorrow, October 22, 2002 at the following churches:

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	5:00 a.m.
Holy Cross Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque	5:15 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City	5:15 a.m.
St. John The Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan, San Juan MM	5:45 a.m.
Mary The Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, MM	6:00 a.m.
St. Ignacio Parish, Torrijos, Marinduque	6:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:15 a.m.
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shine, San Miguel, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 a.m.
San Sebastian Parish, Plaza Del Carmen Quiapo, Manila	7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Sampaloc, Manila	8:00 a.m.
St. Anthony's Shrine, Sampaloc, Manila	3:45 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Church, 14th St., cor. 1st Ave., New York, NY, USA	5:50 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.

The family requests the pious readers and those whose lives he touched to say a prayer for his eternal rest.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the family of the late

ATTY. RENATO "BOBBY" L. DELA FUENTE

24 May 1929 - 18 October 2002

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOSE P. PALMA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 16, 2002

wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, made donations to his favorite charities and expressed love, concern and support in many other ways during our time of deepest sorrow.

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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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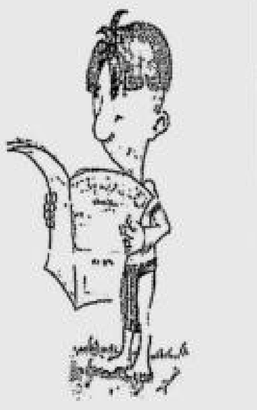

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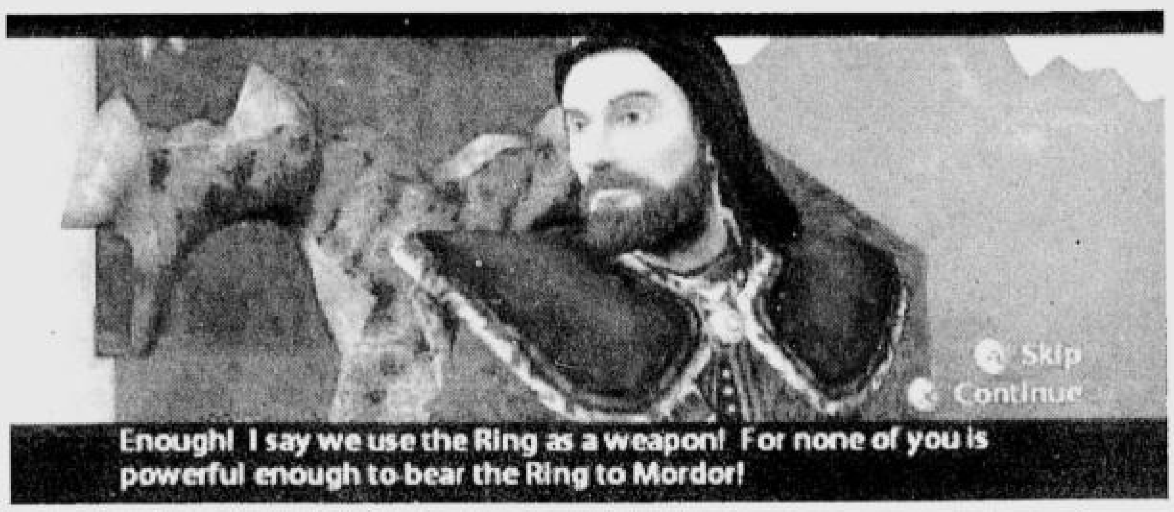
Tolkien's name saved this Xbox game

By Leo Magno



Enough! I say we use the Ring as a weapon! For none of you is powerful enough to bear the Ring to Mordor!

WHEN Peter Jackson's film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkiens' "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" came out in theaters, there were a lot of expectations from fans and first-time visitors to Middle Earth. The same held true when Black Label Games released "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" video game in the first week of October. I was lucky to get a copy abroad, weeks before it comes out in the Philippines and months before pirates release their inferior-quality versions. Any self-respecting Tolkien fan would get an original copy of the game.

"The Lord of the Rings" is an epic tale, and even though what Black Label produced is a video game and not a novel or a movie, one still expects it to render the events which took place in Tolkiens' imaginary world. Not telling the story effectively would be an injustice to Tolkien and his legions of fans. For those of you pathetic enough to just play the game or watch the movie because you're too lazy to pick up the book and read it, may He have mercy on your souls. But for those who just want to get a gist of "Fellowship" and for those who've already seen the movie, the video game may fill in some gaps left out in the Jackson film.

I have finished about two-thirds of the game, having gone through the Mines of Moria, defeated the Balrog and set foot on Lothlorien. So far I've discovered some details which—if I were to take it from the perspective of one who has not read the book—would complement the movie in the overall storytelling process (because there is just so much detail in the book which you can't compress into a movie or a video game).

For one, you'll notice that Tom Bombadil and his wife Goldberry are part of the game. After which Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin will travel through the Barrow-downs and meet some Barrow-wights. These were not included in the film, and I was amused at how the game pictured and gave life to Tom and Goldberry. Moreover, their songs—the lyrics of which were set down by Tolkien on paper—suddenly became real music. I'm sure you've tried to imagine the melody of a Tolkien ditty in the book, singing it in your head and trying to imagine how the characters would look like while singing. Well, the game fleshes this out.

However, Black Label's animation leaves a lot to be desired. Although it's good to see Tom and hear his songs as Black Label and developer WXP gave them melodies, the animation is jagged, the characters do not move smoothly and they look like puppets on a string. And for crying out loud—in some cases they even loop the animated sequence because the song is longer than the sequence of Tom singing! This makes him look like he was opening and closing his mouth like a moronic goldfish.

And look at those hands! I don't know what it is with Black Label but they sure do a poor job of drawing hands. This is the same problem they have with "The Thing," another movie-based game they produced.

You will also notice that some cutaway scenes look and feel different from the others, like that movie where Aragorn, Frodo and the other hobbits were attacked by Ring wraiths on Weathertop and that movie where Frodo made a flight to the ford while riding Asfaloth, the elven horse of Glorfindel (sorry Liv Tyler, Arwen didn't carry Frodo to safety across the river to Rivendell). Again, the hands—look at that ugly hand of Frodo as he puts on the ring while surrounded by Black Riders. In that movie during the fight between Gandalf and the Balrog, you'll notice that the Balrog in the game looks different from the one in the movie.

This makes "Fellowship," the game, appear like it was made by incoherent teams. Instead of looking and feeling like a whole solid game with a solid story to tell, it looks like the development teams tried to beat the deadline. The end result is a game that looks like a rushed job. And while I appreciate the game's faithfulness to the book, there's a certain feeling of discontinuity I get from one adventure to another. Again, my premise here is that Tolkien's epic deserves no less than a good manner by which it is told, so when you don't feel like the story flows from one adventure (or chapter) to another, the entire storytelling experience short-changes the reader or player.

At the start of the game you get a lot of cut scenes to serve as an introduction to the story, then you go through it like you were reading the book, from Gandalf visiting the Shire to Farmer Maggot's mushrooms to Merry and Pippin's conspiracy to their journey toward Rivendell. I must admit that avoiding Black Riders, hiding from one tree or rock to another while a Black Rider walks up and down the road or while riding on his dark horse, was pretty exciting. The background music and the dark surroundings gave the hobbit's concealment efforts the right atmo-

TOLKIEN'S/ B21

Intel intros new chips

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

TAIPEI—In a bid to provide the "building blocks" of future wireless devices—which include mobile phones and handhelds—Intel unveiled two products that aim to increase memory storage and performance of future devices such as mobile phones.

During a developer forum in Taiwan, Intel introduced the world's first 0.13 micron-flash memory chip that could be stacked together, thus adding more memory (up to 1 Gb) into the wireless devices.

This chip is the next-generation Intel StrataFlash memory that runs on low-voltage (1.8 volts) and offers wireless features, said Ronald Smith, senior vice president of Intel Wireless Communication and Computing group.

Apart from the fact that it could stack up several flash memory chips, the chip's size remains relatively small, Smith said.

Applications for the new flash memory chip are endless. But Smith said it could land in the next-generation mobile phones that would handle richer multimedia applications such as audio/video playback, wireless e-mail, wireless games and others.

Currently, the size of flash memory chips is 0.18 micron.

Intel also announced a new microprocessor that stacks the flash memory chip and processor chip together. In short, this is the culmination of Intel's "system-in-a-package" idea the company has been floating for some time now.

The new chip combines the Intel Xscale technology (the brand for its next-generation chip for handhelds and mobile phones), and the Intel Strataflash memory designed for mobile phones.

Smith said the new chip would come in two variations: one that supports a 128 Mb memory and 200 Mhz processor, and the other at 256 Mb memory and 300 Mhz. The two chips would all be based on a 0.13 micron technology. Both chips are designed specifically to run on wireless devices, including smarter and smaller mobile phones.

Stacking up the processor on top of the flash memory is an innovation that allows manufacturers to create smaller devices that are powerful enough to run applications that were previously available only on PCs, Smith said. In fact, the new processors would provide cellular phones the ability to run applications such as video, speech decoding and handwriting recognition.

In the near future, Smith said Intel would develop a "wireless Internet on a chip" processor (codenamed Manitoba) that would essentially combine its Xscale technology with the current mobile phones supporting General Packet Radio Service (GPRS), Smith said.

"(Manitoba) is already in volume production," the executive said.

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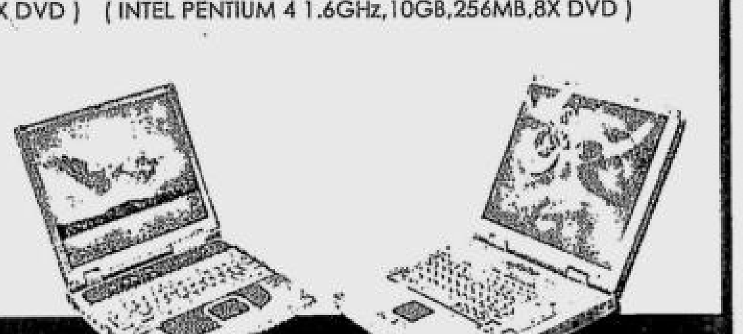

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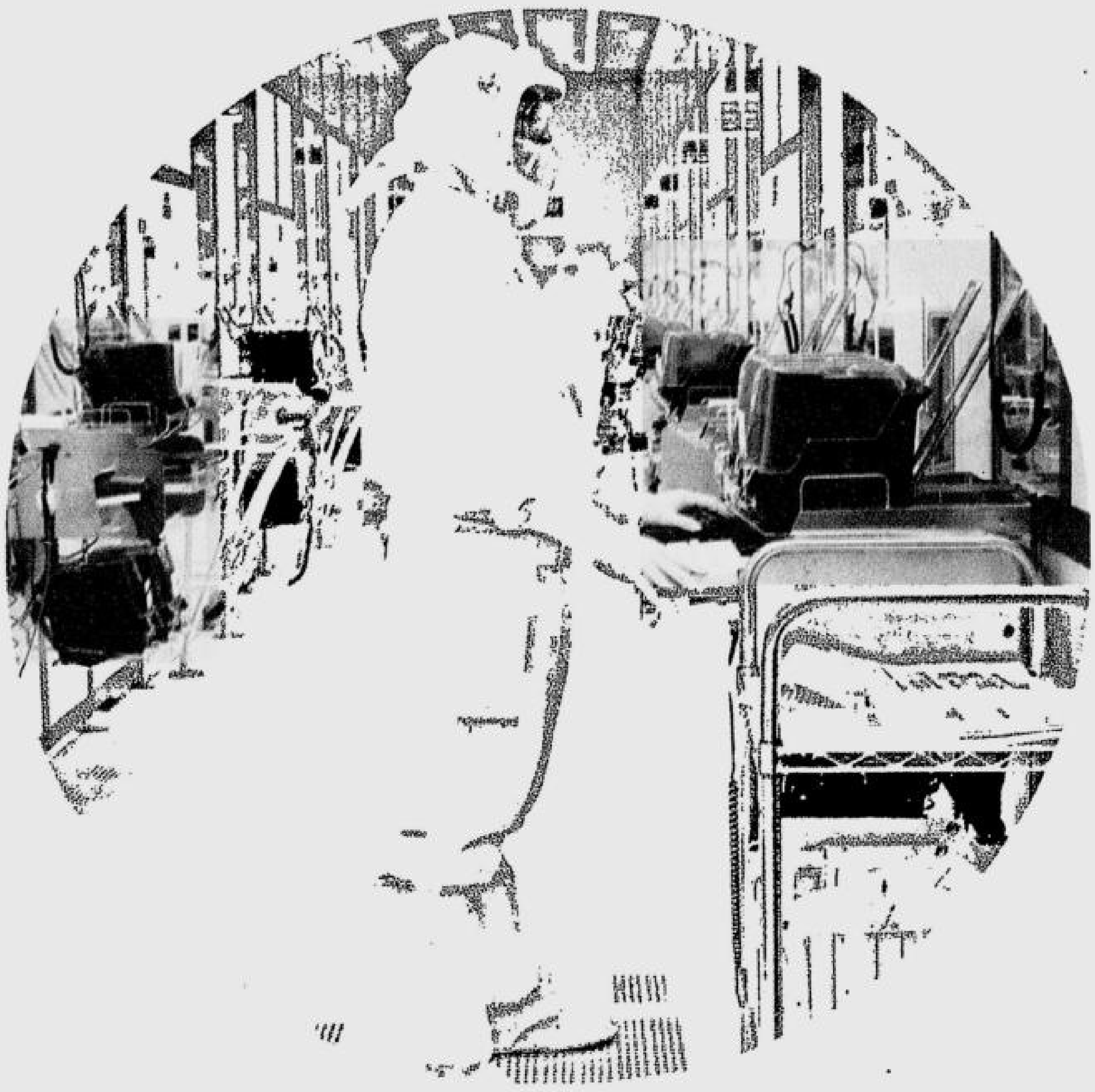

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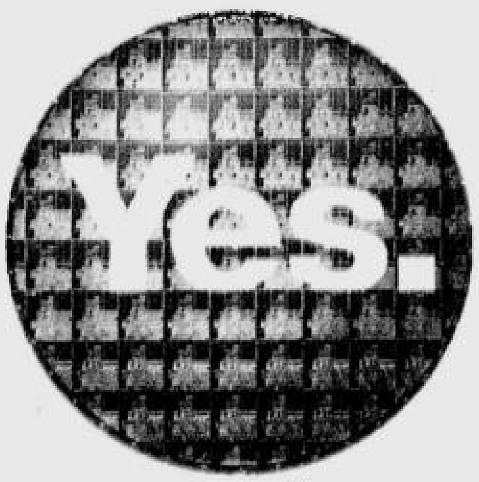

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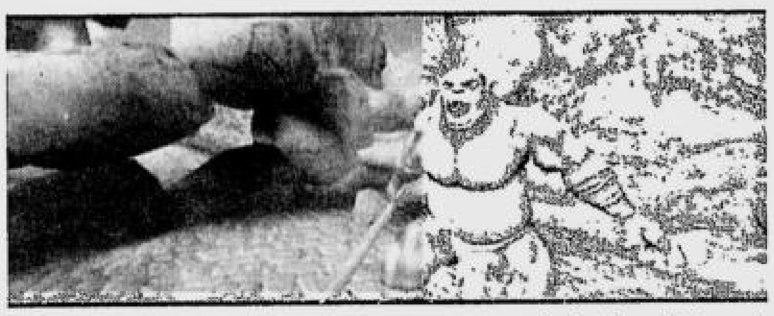
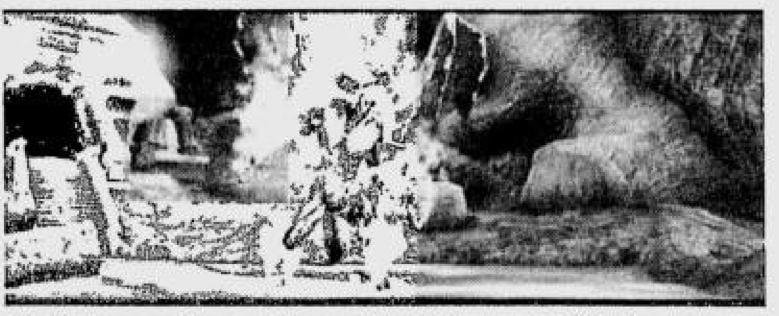
Tolkien's name saved this Xbox game

From page B19





sphere. I also liked that part where the hobbits encounter Old Man Willow (again, this was cut from the film). Frodo gets to fight several willow trees and spiders in the Old Forest and collect lilies for Goldberry then hand them over to Bombadil. Easier said than done because of giant spiders, wights and willows and because Bombadil doesn't stay put—he keeps hauling his fat ass around the Old Forest.

Of course, you can't expect the game to follow the book to the letter. Some non-player characters (NPC) are thrown in so you can interact with more people, although after interacting with them and you go back to that NPC, he or she would say the same thing over and over again. Plus, there are minor side quests you can do at the start of the game, like helping Fatty Bolger find eggs and honey for his pie or helping Ted Sandyman while he's lost in the Old Forest.

When Frodo and the three other short guys reach the Prancing Pony in Bree, the game switches to Aragorn. At Bree you'll see some familiar faces like Barliman Butterbur and Nob and Bob. Aragorn will have his own side quests and ruffians to battle. He'll also get to kick Bill Ferny's ass. On his way to Weathertop, he will encounter pesky, rock-throwing trolls till he encounters the big daddy troll. Like Frodo, Aragorn's health can be replenished by picking up mushrooms, cram and lembas in the area.

After Aragorn succesfully guides Frodo and the other runts to Rivendell, you'll again encounter cut scenes galore at the council of Elrond and meet up with Bilbo and the members of the fellowship. Then it's Gandalf's turn. You get to guide the Company from Rivendell to Caradhras as Gandalf fight some wargs and the tentacles in the lake which guard the dwarven door to Moria. Aside from the power-ups used by Frodo and Aragorn, Gandalf can also pick up bottles of miruvor—water from Rivendell which replenishes his magic. Upon defeating the tentacles in the lake, you'd be required to say the password to the dwarven door. Read the book to solve the puzzle (speak, friend, and enter!).

I saved and stopped playing the game after leaving Moria. At this point I was getting worried. In book terms, I had already finished more than half of "The Fellowship of the Ring," so does this mean the game was more than halfway finished, too? If so, this was going to be a short one as I have only logged on six hours and 40 minutes on the game. I'll give you the update later.

Now on to the gripes.

I have already mentioned the poor graphics quality and mediocre animation. Had Vivendi Universal Games given the project to Japanese developers like Capcom (take a look at Resident Evil on the Gamecube or Onimusha' on the PS2) or Square (Final Fantasy series), the graphics and animation part of "Fellowship" would have been superior. But of course, we weren't expecting that to happen, so they gave it instead to developer WXP and producer Black Label. In general, American developers have a lot of catching up to do with their Japanese counterparts.

We review this game on the XBox

The reason I say this is that Tolkien's work is a beloved epic. It has a rabid global fan base. It has also become a commercial success. It is huge. Therefore it deserves better representation in the gaming world. WXP and Black Label did a good job but came up short.

Second, the game's continuity leaves a lot to be desired. Above everything else, "The Lord of the Rings" is a story magnificently told by Tolkien. I expect no less from newer, more techno-savvy incarnations like movies or video games. In some cases, after completing a minor quest you get jolted into another scene with the voice of Frodo, Aragorn or Gandalf explaining the next one. The transition from the game to cutscenes and vice versa is also poorly executed. It looks like you're being jolted from one scene to the next. For superior transition from cut scenes to in-game graphics, take a look at Resident Evil for the Gamecube. You sometimes wouldn't know whether the graphics are part of the cut scenes or if they're in-game already. I have to say this, but no matter what Xbox or PS2 people say, Resident Evil for the Gamecube is still the most realistic-looking game out there—bar none.

Finally, the biggest mystery of all. In Black Label's "Fellowship," you get to play three different characters, right? However, you're always traveling with someone—like the hobbits or the entire Company. But when you play it, in most cases those guys don't follow you. They just magically appear at the end of the map. Also, even when you're reunited with the other members of the Company, you often fight alone while others—even Aragorn, Boromir, lovely Legolas and Gimli—just stand there like morons!

Case in point: I was battling the tentacles from the lake at the door to Moria all by myself, even though all of us were there. After four tries I finally defeated the enemy. I opened the door (using the password) and led all of them into the mine. Upon entry, I was again all alone in Moria! Where the hell did the others go? I made it through the first dark tunnel on my own, killed some orcs and avoided falling rocks, and then the Company suddenly materialized when I reached the first cavern. Stupid.

Why can't the game have the Company follow the playable character like in Black Label's very own "The Thing," "Oddworld's" Mudokan scrubs and the Pikmin in Nintendo's "Pikmin"? There are a couple of stages where the hobbits follow Frodo through the forest labyrinth, and where Frodo follows Aragorn down from Weathertop, but it would have been great to have members of the Company trek down dangerous paths with the playable character and even fight alongside him. Better yet, members of the Company should be able to be told to stay put or follow. And so, on the artificial intelligence side of the game, this one feels really rushed. Another note on the AI of "Fellowship": sometimes orcs will just pass by you if you leave them alone, or just turn their backs on you while you're fighting another orc.

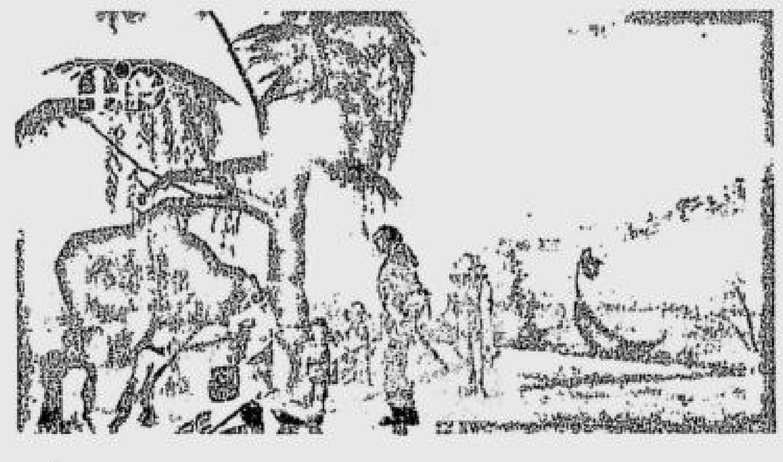
And what's with the slow loading time? In the mines of Moria as you look for the bridge of Khazad-Dum, there will be many cavern doors that will open, but you'd be faced by nothing—just a dark void—while the word "Loading" flashes on top of the screen. You can't go through, of course, and after 5 to 20 seconds you'd see the interior of the next cavern and that's the only time your character will go through. It's a good thing this part of the game had a good door puzzle and lots of orcs to zap, a fact which mitigated the whole painful loading experience.

The next chapter sees Aragorn facing a lot of enemies and good puzzles, which would require the player to keep his wits while simultaneously hacking his way through lots of orcs. In fairness, I found the puzzles in the game to be pretty good and not brain dead like the ones in "Blood Omen 2."

Finally, "Fellowship" does not have good in-game instructions. The manual carries some information about items and weapons, but when you're in the middle of a battle you struggle to flip through items and weapons and ask "What the hell was this thing again?" Before you know it, an orc would give you a sucker punch and down you go.

All in all, I like "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings" video game, precisely because it has something to do with the trilogy. It was fun to see the characters fleshed out, to hear their songs and relive the experience, even though I've read the trilogy three times and I've seen the movie twice. Other than that, WXP and Black Label did not do justice to the Tolkien masterpiece. Game-wise, "Fellowship" is just an average adventure game with a lot of warts which average players choose to ignore.

The bottom line is: Take away Tolkien from the game and you'd have a mediocre adventure title. I can't help but feel that Black Label's "The Fellowship of the Ring" video game was rushed because "The Two Towers" will be out in theaters in two months.



Intel . . .

From page B19

Dipping sales of PCs worldwide prompted Intel to look to other market segments where its chip technology could be applied. And it is but logical for the world's biggest chip manufacturer to develop chips for future wireless devices. Smith said Intel's new chips for wireless devices would support all existing operating systems for handhelds, including Symbian, PocketPC, Palm, Java and even Linux.

Recently, Sony unveiled its Clie that is based on Intel's new Xscale chip technology.

With its experience with Pentium 4, Intel believes that European, Japanese, Taiwanese and other Asian phone manufacturers would eventually integrate Intel's new chip into their wireless devices.

Smith declined to give details.

Meanwhile, Intel also announced that it has decided to provide developers a common set of tools to create applications for the new microprocessors. These development tools are the same tools used in all Intel architectures including Itanium, PCA and Pentium.

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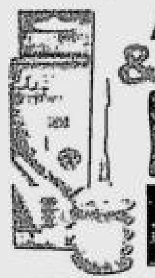

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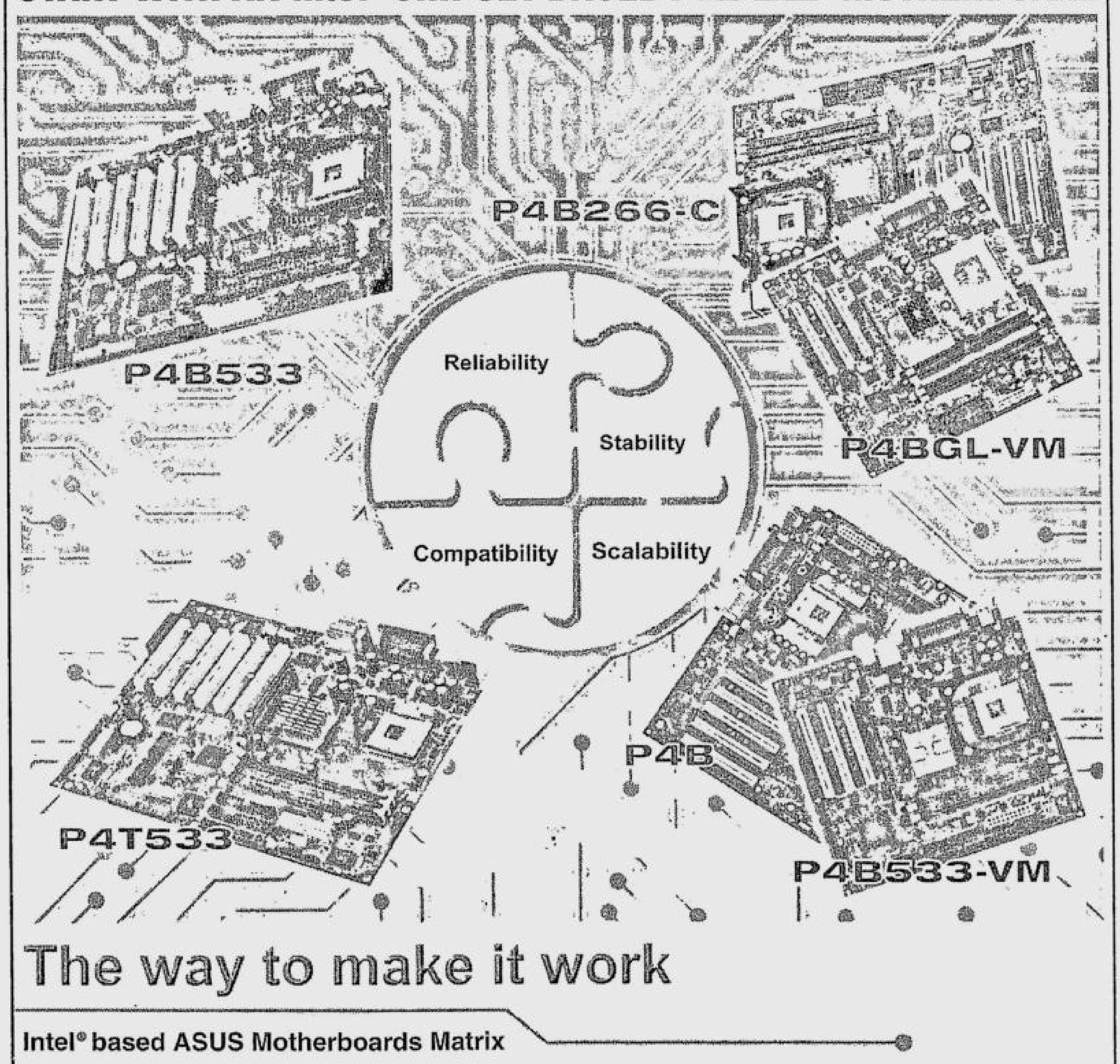

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Paperless office still a Utopian dream?

DESPITE predictions that paper would one day disappear and be replaced by new technologies, today's businesses are printing more than ever.

Xplor, an organization that tracks the digital hardcopy printing space, estimates that paper use is growing 6 to 8 percent each year and that the number of pages printed between 1995 and 2005 will more than double. Xplor is a worldwide association representing more than 5,000 members at more than 2,500 companies that develop and use the technology of the $125-billion document systems industry.

Today, enterprise printing is costing companies around the globe only a small fortune. Printing costs of businesses represent a mere one to 3 percent of corporate revenue. However, Xplor said this amount is expected to increase exponentially unless CIOs, CFOs and CEOs take steps to gain control of this critical business function.

According to the Xplor study, the average worker prints 33 Internet pages each day. And, for every $1 billion of revenue, an average corporation generates 88 million sheets of paper—a pile of paper which when stacked up together could reach over a distance of seven miles.

The Xplor study quotes analysts estimates that the combined hard and soft dollar costs of enterprise printing represent between 6 and 15 percent of corporate revenue.

Breaking it down further, Lexmark, a top US printer maker, estimates that hardcopy output costs alone equal one to 3 percent of a company's total revenue.

Thus, at these rates, a $1-billion company is spending $10 to $30 million on printing without even knowing it. However, Xplor added that companies which evaluate their hardcopy infrastructure can reduce these hard dollar costs by up to 20 percent, meaning a $1-billion enterprise can save $2 to $6 million in output-related costs each year.

The study shows that these savings can be generated from optimizing output assets, printing more intelligently and streamlining business processes by moving paper-based information back into the electronic realm.

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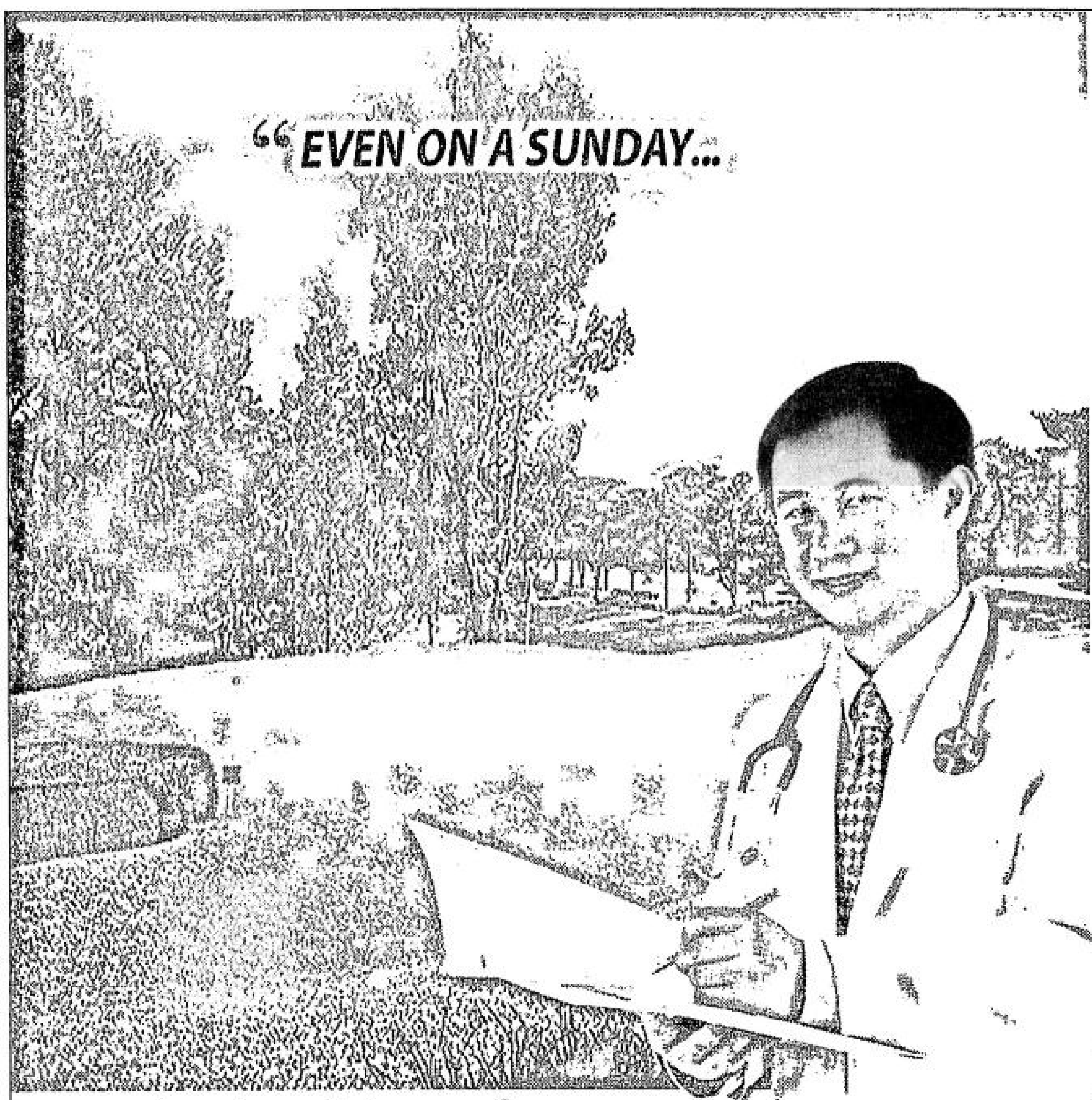
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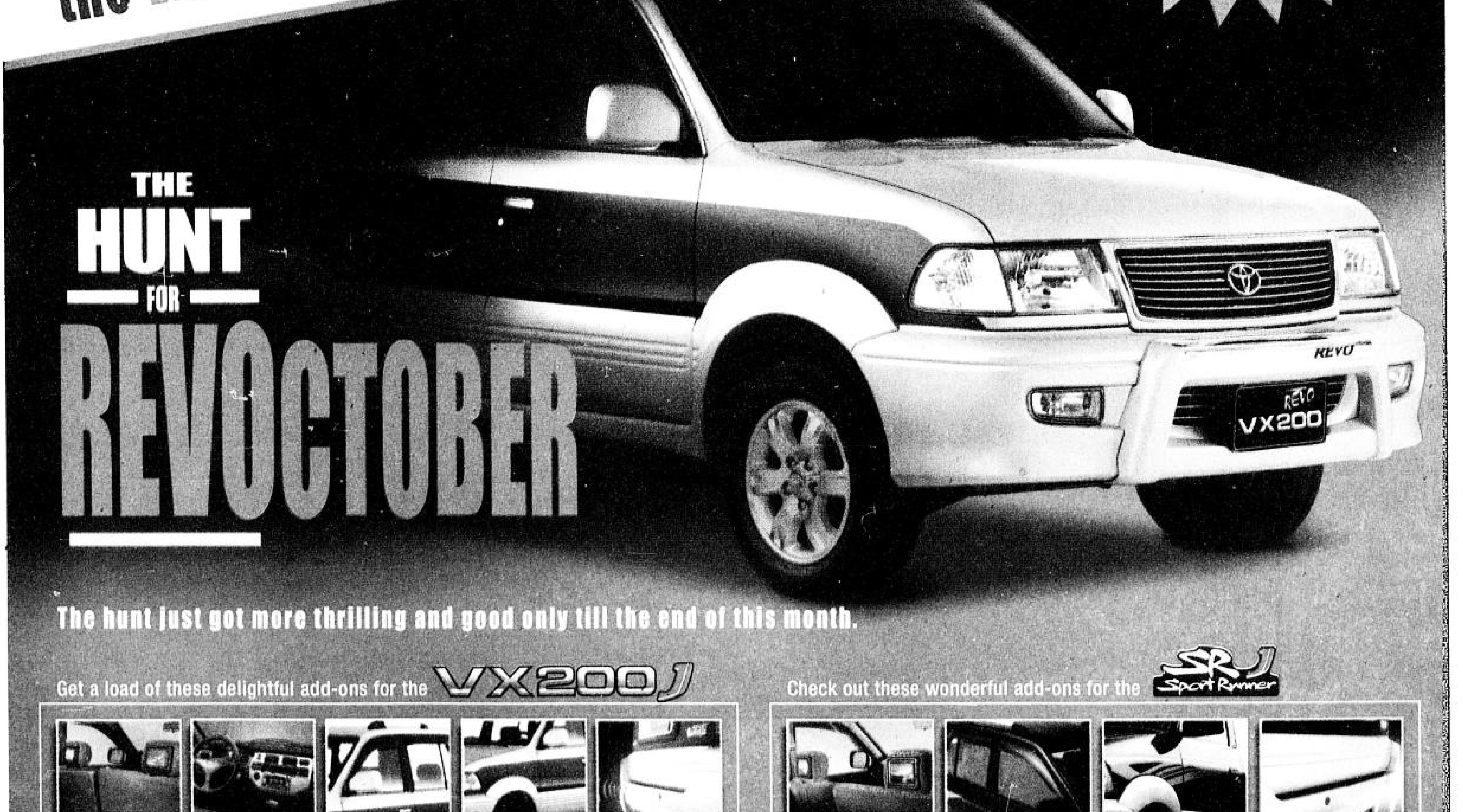

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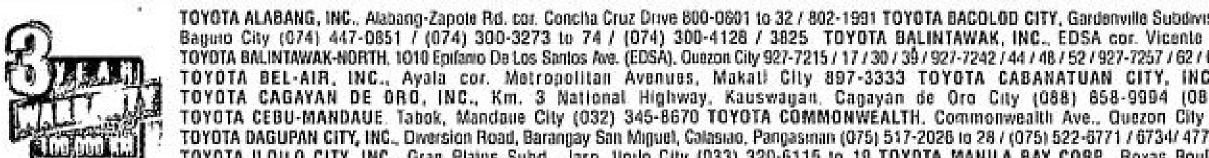

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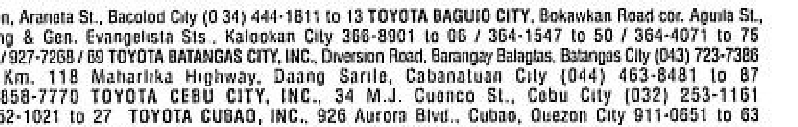

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INTERNET CRIME

Con artists find new playground

By Raul J. Palabrica

CON artists have found a new playground for their game: the Internet. Except for the URL, domain name or e-mail address, this latest medium provides the anonymity and deniability that swindlers look for to ply their trade.

The Internet-based scams promise to give their intended victims millions of dollars without exerting any effort other than give information about themselves by e-mail. No charges to pay. No credit investigation to undergo.

The local version of these rip-offs carries internationally known domain names that can be used by anybody who knows how to do an Internet online registration. Whatever information is given by the applying party is usually accepted at its face value.

It's only when the identifying name sought to be used is similar to one that has been registered earlier that the alarm bells ring. If that happens, all the applicant has to do is come up with another name that can identify him in the system.

The distinctive feature of the scam mail is it involves money or personalities from African countries as Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Abidjan, West Sahara and Congo. These countries share a common denominator: military dictatorships once ruled or continue to rule them.

Features

The schemes revolve around unclaimed bank deposit boxes, deceased depositors who left substantial bank deposits with no known heirs and overpayment to contractors for lucrative infrastructure projects.

In the "unclaimed deposit box" approach, the con artist claims he or she is the son, daughter or widow of a high-ranking government official who, before his death in the hands of his political enemies, put millions of dollars in cash and securities in a safety deposit box of a security company or bank based in a friendly African or European country.

The surviving heir supposedly fled the country with the certificate of deposit as the only proof of existence of the deposit box. For one politics-related reason or another, he cannot come out in the open to claim ownership of the contents of the box. He wants the scam target to do that for him in exchange for a fee or share in the proceeds of the box.

The "deceased depositor" scheme weaves the tale of a businessman or politician who, at the time of his death, left millions of dollars in bank deposits without designating a beneficiary or for years no heir had come up to claim the money.

The storyteller describes himself as a senior bank official or lawyer of the depositor who is looking for somebody willing to present himself as the long-lost relative of the deceased depositor and lay claim to the deposit, otherwise it will be confiscated by the government. The trade-off for the masquerade is a commission or share in the recovered amounts.

The "overpayment to contractors" design has for its cast of characters government officials who allegedly received payoffs from government contracts or contractors who overpriced their contracts then deposited the share of their partners in crime (who else, but government officials) in offshore banks. Does this sound familiar in the local scene?

The line used in this scenario is that the kickback was deposited in a bank of a country that does not look kindly on government officials or contractors who overprice infrastructure contracts for obvious reasons. To gain access to those funds without arousing suspicion, the would-be victim is asked to pose as the depositor's representative or to agree to be named the beneficiary of the bank account in consideration for an eye-popping commission.

Information

So what does the target of the scam have to do to get the promised million-dollar commissions? He only has to say "yes" to the proposal and send by e-mail to a specified e-mail address his telephone and fax numbers.

That favorable action will get immediate attention, often within 24 hours. The con artist will give more details about the transaction, sometimes with pictures of the parties involved and their credentials, or a copy of the alleged security certificate in the case of the safety deposit box scheme.

Pleading the need for strict confidentiality, the anonymous solicitor will suggest that fur-

CON ARTIST/ C2

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Trends and revolutionary ideas in urban development

MAPping THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox Jr.

(Second of three parts)

THE NEW concepts of the "New Urbanism" address the ills of the current urban expansion and development pattern evident in many cities and metropolitan areas today. Emerging as an alternative planning framework, the "New Urbanism" is an urban design movement that responds to these problems and offers new, more responsible models of development.

There are some key principles which foster the New Urbanism. One of these is that development should be in the form of more compact, walkable neighborhoods and/or cities or towns. Such places should have clearly defined centers and edges.

The center, necessarily, includes a public space, public buildings (such as a library, a medical clinic, a playground or sports center), a public transit stop and commercial/retail business. Also, streets should be laid out as an interconnected network, forming coherent blocks where building entrances front the street rather than parking lots.

Public transportation should connect neighborhoods to one another, the central city and the surrounding region.

An important principle of the New Urbanism is the advocacy for a diverse mix of land uses and activities (residences, shops, schools, workplaces, parks, etc.) in close proximity to each other. A wide spectrum of housing options should enable people of a broad range of incomes, ages and family types to live within a single neighborhood or town or city.

This encourages a healthy interaction or bonding among various kinds of people, resulting in a community which cherishes social-civic values. What should be avoided is large developments featuring a single use or serving a single market segment.

Walkable communities

Walkable cities are livable cities. A major element in the "New Urbanism" movement is pedestrianization and the concept of walkable cities. Among the recognized walkable cities in the world are the American cities—New York, Boston, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle—old European cities—Paris, London, Venice and Florence and some prominent and world cities of Asia—Fukuoka in Japan; Singapore and Hong Kong.

A comfortable and pleasant walk is made possible to and from destinations by clustering related establishments close to each other. Streetscapes are characterized by vibrant activity, and architectural elements designed for the human scale, emphasizing their history and spirit of the place.

These are in contrast to post-World War II cities which require the use of the automobile to be able to traverse distances between destinations. Since planning then was oriented to the speeding car, the streetscape did not emphasize design elements and details that could be appreciated by the pedestrian.

TOD

To complement walkable cities, the concept of transport-oriented development (TOD) was further refined. The concept recognizes the potential of lending complete mixed-use and multi-use communities to transit and inter-modal terminals, airports and sea ports.

In so doing, transport is considered as not merely a means of distribution, but a significant nucleus of economic and human settlements, by itself. An urban TOD may be characterized by commercial intensity, job clusters and moderate to high-density residential land use. Fingers of greenery and a network of public open spaces are essential to this type of development where you expect a large turnover of people at modal points.

ICT

The introduction of modern information and communication technology (ICT) has set new trends in property development. Activities in the workplace and the home have been redefined by the new information highway. A brave new world in cyberspace has reduced the need for physical presence and travel.

Connectivity is enhanced by networks and computers that move information across borders in seconds; thus facilitating business transactions all around. The ultimate impact of this ICT is broad and far-reaching.

Telecommuting alters our perception of urban sprawl. With telecommuting technology, distance is no longer a constraint. Problems attendant to urban sprawl—traffic, loss of productivity due to long travel time, and even air pollution due to motor vehicles—may be overcome.

Small office home office

Telecommuting technology has redefined our concept of the workplace. More workers and management may set up home office arrangements that will reduce travel costs for workers, reduce overhead costs for companies and eliminate rental cost for the self-employed working at home.

A major advantage of the home office is the flexibility in the use of a person's time throughout the day, allowing more time for family and other activities. This flexibility has especially afforded women, previously bound to the home by traditional responsibilities, to join the economic mainstream, without being remiss in taking care of the home and the family. The number of Internet users is estimated to double every 100 days.

Mixed-, multi-use dev't

There is a trend toward mixed-use and multi-use developments because this type of development offers many advantages. In contrast to single stand-alone developments, multi-use and mixed-use developments usually are major self-sufficient development projects, associated with distinctive identity and place.

The diversity of uses is conducive to vibrant and mutually enhancing daytime and nighttime activities. Mixed-use and multi-use developments are defined by the Urban Land Institute as being characterized by 1) three or more mutually supporting, revenue-generating uses, such as office, residential condominiums, retails, restaurants, cinemas, hotels and others; 2) with significant physical and functional integration, including pedestrianization; and 3) developed in conformity with a coherent plan.

This type of development is seen as ideal for the urban renewal of blighted city centers, as well as the revitalization of bedroom suburbs, because of its immediate and substantial impact.

The mixed-use development concept was implemented in the Rockwell Center in Makati City and at the SM Central Business Park, Pasay City, where place of residence is linked to places of work, shopping, dining, places of worship and family entertainment/amusement to places of culture and tourism, to places of learning, to places of healthcare in park-like settings.

Water features

The Philippines, being an archipelagic country, has a long shoreline, with great potential for development. In undertaking such development, the fragile ecosystem of coastal land must be recognized, marine life conserved and the seascape enhanced, to add to the amenity value of these water and coastal resources. Moreover, the Philippines has many rivers and lakes that need to be protected from degradation and pollution. The current practice of treating our waterways as "back of the house," as in the case with most developments along the Pasig River, encourages the proliferation of informal settlers along the banks, and the indiscriminate disposal of untreated industrial and domestic waste into the river.

It is important to initiate waterfront developments that assign prime value to waterways traversing the metropolis, even and especially at this time when these are largely polluted. We should have a paradigm shift from treating the rivers, lakes, waterfronts from "back of the house," "*basurahan*" garbage dumps to "front-door" developments of high amenity value.

The impact of free trade stresses the importance of competitive sites dedicated to the development of business and industry. Of late, a shift from the traditional industrial estates/business park, technology park with small plots, to the township-type of park is growing.

Industrial estates

Township industrial estates, business park, technology park developments integrate the other various functions of living, shopping and recreation within the park, the result of which is a planned multi-use development similar to micro-city.

International standard facilities necessary for the efficient operations of industry and business, such as roads, electricity, water and waste management and security, remain key to the success of the development.

The convenience of having all other services and amenities attendant to a city within easy access is added value to the development. Some of the industrial and business parks Palafox Associates has worked on include the First Philippine Industrial Park Inc. in Batangas, business parks in Subic Freeport and Clark Economic Zone.

Transport and land use

Sustainable mobility and balancing transportation in land use are two of the many challenges in urban development. Land use demands the use of roads and mass transit. Transport generates new productive land uses and sustains or enhances existing ones. Its effects on the direction of urban growth of our cities are far-reaching and its impact almost immediate.

Seeing transport in this light places transport planning in the larger context of social responsibility. Highways, roads and mass transit should maximize private and public benefit. Also, these transport corridors should provide additional values, as in enabling people traversing roads or using mass transit, something aesthetically good to see, something that appeals to their sense of beauty and harmony.

Nature in metropolis

Given the urban problems of our metropolis, some may say that providing for nature in the metropolis is low in the list of priorities. However, it is precisely because of the urgency of the urban problems of congestion, blight and slums that the provision for open space or breathing space within the metropolis becomes critical.

Pockets of greenery and clusters of shrubs placed from the periphery of the metropolis toward its center serve as air sheds to disperse pollution and bring in cleaner and cooler air. Green spaces also provide the city's children with places for play, and its families, respite from the concrete jungle which surrounds them.

Where there are parks and promenades or a lot of open space, the end users shall indulge in the feel of the provincial, rural setting while reveling in the cities' attractions.

Ecotourism

Until 50 years ago, nature or outdoor tourists were not as sensitive to the harm they can do to their treks in the mountains, their dives in the sea or their hunt of birds. Ruining habitats and endangered animal and plant species, spoiling the wilderness and feeding the animals with popcorn or bubble gum damage the ecology and the environment.

Ecotourism began in the '70s and continues to evolve in the '90s and well into the year 2000. Arising out of environmental, economic and social concerns, "Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people."

Since ecotourists like to use local resources, local expertise, this translates into import savings, environmentally sensitive designs and local participation in the travel industry.

The Philippines, with its alarming rate of diminishing forest cover, needs exactly this kind of approach. It is fortunate that the Department of Tourism now espouses the ecotourism as a philosophy.

Palafox Associates, of course, is in full support of ecotourism as exemplified in its master plans of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Guimaras, Lake Naujan in Mindoro and in Sagay City in Negros Occidental.

In a world more conscious of rights and responsibilities, ecotourism enhances the local communities' right to preserve ancient cultures and indigenous economics.

Amenity, accessibility

Each location has its unique amenity or comparative advantage that is inherent by virtue of its location and available resources. Thus, in considering the feasibility of a development project, site-specific analysis is essential.

(The author is board member of the Management Association of the Philippines, co-chair of the MAP environment and urban development committee and principal architect and founder of Palafox Associates.)

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Con artists find new playground

From page C1

ther discussions be made by telephone or fax machine. Also, the calls have to be made at pre-determined times and return calls are not encouraged.

The con artist will try to sweet talk the prey into believing that he has everything to gain and nothing to lose in the transaction. He will drop the names of prominent international personalities he supposedly worked with on similar deals in the past. He will give a step-by-step briefing on how the prey can get his reward when the transaction is completed.

As soon as the prey bites, the con artist will go to the next step of the scam. In the case of the "unclaimed deposit box," he will ask the prey to open an account with the bank where the deposit box is lodged to establish his credentials prior to laying claim to the box. If the prey does not know how to go about that process, the con artist will only be too glad to do that for him.

If the prey agrees, he will be directed to remit a certain sum of money as initial deposit, say, $5,000, to a numbered account of a particular bank. The con artist will supposedly take care of transferring that amount to the account he will open at the bank that holds the box.

Needless to emphasize, once that money is remitted to the numbered account, it will be immediately withdrawn and the con artist will not be heard from again.

Password

In the "deceased depositor" scheme, the prey will be given, through fax or e-mail, a document that traces his relationship to the deceased depositor and the reason he did not promptly claim the assets left behind by his deceased relative.

An item in the document will ask the prey to give his bank account in the United States or Europe to which the proceeds of the deposit can be transferred in case the claim is approved. If it is a number account, the con artist will instruct the prey to tell him by telephone its password.

On the pretext that the transfer of funds should move smoothly (otherwise the bank would disallow a re-try if something goes wrong), the con artist will ask for a "test transaction" on the prey's bank account.

Using the password given to him, the con artist will make a call or send a letter to the bank and ask for the balance status of the account. If the bank responds favorably, the con artist will instruct the prey to fill up the document and send it to him as soon as possible.

Even before the prey has completed the document, expect the con artist to send instructions to the bank to transfer the proceeds of the account to a number account in a bank elsewhere in the world.

If the prey's account is a regular account, which means, the signature of the depositor is necessary to authorize withdrawals from it, the con artist can digitally copy or forge the signature of the prey, as appearing in the document he signed, to get hold of the proceeds of the account.

Greed

In the "overpayment to contractors" scheme, the prey will be given a document that states that he has been named the representative or beneficiary of the person registered as depositor of an account that holds payoffs from government contracts. As representative or beneficiary, he is given full authority to withdraw, transfer or dispose of the proceeds of the account.

On the basis of this authorization, the prey will be asked to write a letter to the bank requesting the transfer of the proceeds of the account to his own bank account. Like the "deceased depositor" scheme, as soon as the con artist gets the prey's account number, password or copy of his signature, it's goodbye to everything deposited in that account.

Like all other scams, the Internet-based swindling exercises work on the presumption that an element of greed lies in every person. That if somebody is presented with the opportunity to earn money without exerting any efforts, he will grab it. The higher the expectation of profits, the stronger the temptation to participate in get-rich-quick schemes.

Word of advice to those who have the bad luck of receiving these cyberspace scams, ignore them. Better still, delete them from your files lest you be unwittingly lured into its trap.

MOVEMENTS

Ex-Shell CEO named ambassador

OSCAR Reyes, the former chair and CEO of Pilipinas Shell Corp., and a former trustee of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, has been named by joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS as the UNAIDS goodwill ambassador-designate in the Philippines.

As ambassador, Reyes will push the issue of business-sector involvement in addressing the growing threat of HIV and AIDS, particularly in the workplaces.

He will likewise represent the Philippines in both local and international UNAIDS conferences.

Before being named to the position, Reyes was actively involved in several HIV/AIDS business initiatives when he was CEO of Shell and as co-chair of PBSP's Center for Corporate Citizenship.

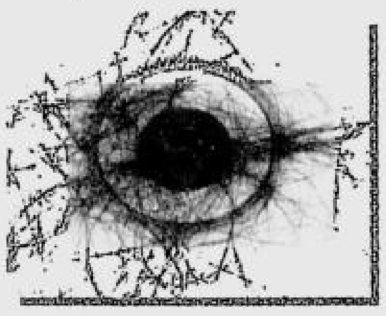
In 2001, he spoke about PBSP's collective business response as well as Shell's local and global effort to combat the growing pandemic at the Global Multi-sectoral Conference on HIV/AIDS in Sweden.

A strategic program called Tri-Sector Partnership in HIV/AIDS in the Workplace, developed by PBSP with Shell, shall form the basis of his technical and advocacy agenda.

The United Nations has chosen to coordinate with PBSP in outlining the business agenda and support to workplace initiatives because of PBSP's pioneering effort in the said program initiated in 1995.

Reyes will work with UNAIDS in creating wider awareness, mobilizing action and providing leadership in the corporate sector to proactively invest in HIV/AIDS prevention programs nationwide.

MARCO/ C5



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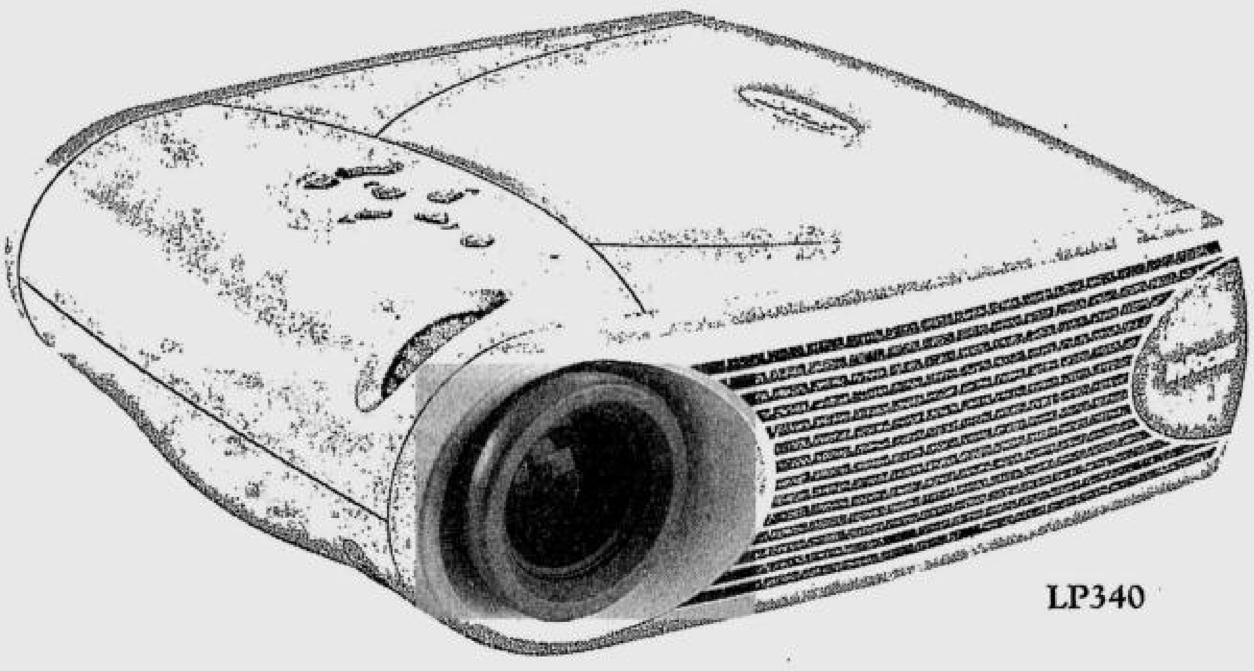

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3712 Series of 2002.

Goldman seeks hole-in-one on Japan fairways

TOKYO—Fifteen years ago, world-beating Japanese companies were gobbling up prestigious golf courses from Australia's Gold Coast to Pebble Beach in California.

Now, with the Japanese economy having spent a decade in the rough, the tables have turned—and US investment bank Goldman Sachs is set to become the biggest course owner in Japan.

"Golf courses are going for bargain-basement prices and big investment banks are out shopping," said Motoya Kitamura, a buyout researcher at Mitsubishi Research Institute.

Goldman teed off last December when it acquired the assets of the failed Nitto Kogyo Group, one of Japan's largest golf course operators, giving the investment bank control of 30 courses around the country.

"Debt has been a burden for so long. But many of these operators have good golf managers, and some also recognize a new business model is needed," a spokesman for Goldman Sachs said, declining to be identified.

Foreign buyout funds such as Goldman aim to snap up such "distressed assets," and by cutting costs and getting banks and members to waive claims, restore the courses to profitability.

But why invest in a sector mired by excess capacity, debt and deflation, symbolic of the malaise that has stricken Japan since its economic bubble burst a decade ago?

Bubble-era golf mania

Analysts say that if operators can shake off a massive debt overhang from the bubble years, there is still strong player demand for well-run courses.

"The problem isn't in the golf industry itself. The problem is the massive monster they created," said an industry insider.

The woes of the sector are a classic tale of bubble excess.

Flush with cash, Japanese real estate and construction companies went on a speculative binge in the 1980s that left the countryside carpeted with 2,400 golf courses. Now, 80 percent or more of these are in the red.

"It's painful to say as a golf lover, but I expect bankruptcies to continue soaring this year," lamented Akira Matsuzaki, manager of the planning division at Juchi Golf, a golf membership wholesaler.

In the heady years of the late 1980s, golf memberships were traded over the counter like stocks. Corporate memberships traded as high as 400 million yen ($3.21 million).

But like all bubbles, this one was to burst.

The Japan Golf Membership Prices Index, which is a snapshot of joining fees in over 500 golf clubs nationwide compiled by the Nikkei Sangyo Shimbun daily, has plummeted to 60 after rising nearly 700 percent to a dizzying peak of 940 in early 1990.

"I would say there are few Japanese companies that didn't get burnt to some extent by crazy bubble-era investments in golf courses or memberships," said Mark Brown, an analyst at ING.

In 2002, a large number of golf courses that came on line in a last-gasp of bubble euphoria in 1992, will have to repay 10-year deposits to their original members.

But as corporate Japan tightens its belt, the lavish expense accounts of the past on which golf courses relied for a large chunk of their memberships, are now gone.

Add to that over a decade of declining real estate prices that have left the vast tracts of green land at a fraction of their book prices, and you have a recipe for financial disaster.

According to research firm Teikoku Databank, the number of bankruptcies in the sector is expected to hit a record 100 or more in the 2002/03 fiscal year ending next March.

Goldman goes shopping

Goldman is also said to be in the running for Osaka-based golf course operator Sports Shinko Ltd., which has about 70,000 members and is under legal trusteeship after filing for bankruptcy in February.

"Goldman Sachs is one of the leading contenders to buy us," a spokesman for Sports Shinko said.

The deal would make Goldman the biggest golf course owner in Japan, with more than 60 courses.

The turnaround model? Members take a hit, losing almost all deposits. In exchange, they retain playing rights, and in some cases, receive an equity stake in the restructured enterprise, say industry insiders.

"A number of these courses have very good cash flow. The problem is just that they are also very highly leveraged," said the Goldman spokesman.

Kitamura said: "As long as they can resolve the membership issue, and cut costs using their management know-how, there's no reason these courses can't be returned to profitability."

But is Goldman headed for a financial sand trap?

Like much of the Japanese economy, the golf sector is mired by excess capacity, with hundreds of "zombie" operators on life support from creditors adding to deflationary pressures.

"Even the sickest golf courses rarely die, as there is no demand for the land. Most are located in the countryside, where the population is shrinking and factories continue moving offshore to China," said Matsuzaki at Juchi Golf.

Analysts say Goldman and other foreign operators also face a potential legal minefield in negotiating with the thousands of members over cutting their deposits.

Members and creditors at Nitto Kogyo golf courses will vote on a restructuring plan later this year, Goldman says.

But with the alternative being bankruptcy, meaning a loss of both their deposits and playing rights, members have little bargaining power.

Reuters

Outsourcing: More bane than boon?

RECENT outsourcing experiences of some banks serve as sober reminders of potential complications in committing to a marriage of seeming convenience without enough due considerations.

In the ever-growing popularity concept of outsourcing, Asian Banker Research finds that in assessing the non-core activities that can be considered, banks must weigh the potential of obtaining competitive advantages versus the strategic vulnerability that could arise from market failure. Conceptually, we can array these two factors in the following matrix:

Competitive advantage vs strategic vulnerability in outsourcing. Unfortunately, as with many trends that trigger a herd-mentality, the lure of outsourcing is not without pitfalls.

Just as banks are keen on the cost benefits, its main concern also lie in the delivery of those promises and the real value—realization of outsourcing. The hidden costs that banks may not be aware of can include the expense of transitioning activities to the service provider, the cost of managing the outsourcing effort and the expense to switch vendors or re-integrate the outsourced activities.

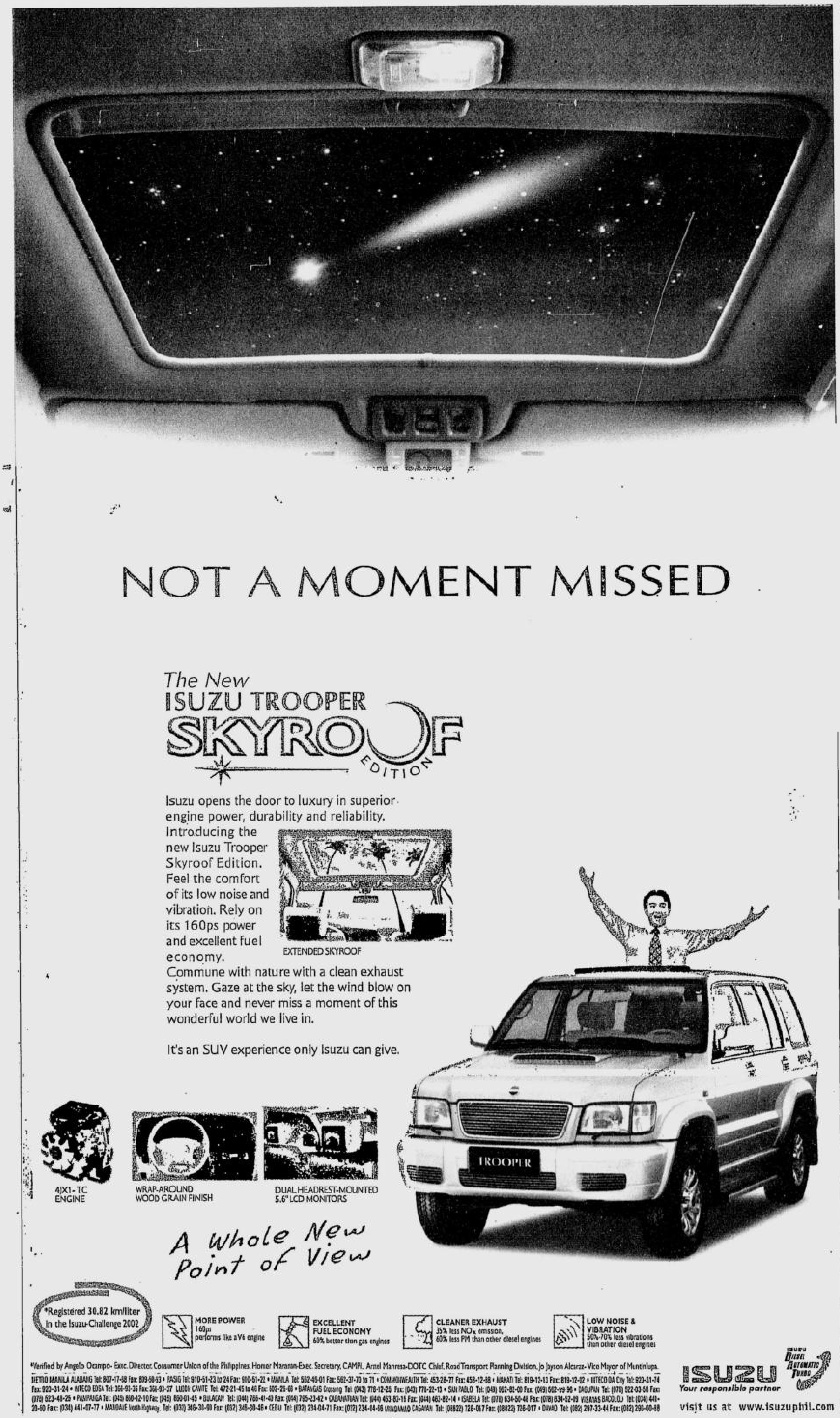
Banks need to understand that they can outsource the delivery of strategy, but not strategy itself. In the case of Bumiputra-Commerce Bank's IT outsourcing deal, for instance, they overcame the concerns over the lack of control by forming a new unit within the bank to manage the relationship with the service provider.

This new unit, known as Service Management Group (SMG), is not only responsible for the negotiation and development of the terms and conditions of service for the bank, but also sets the strategic IT direction in the bank.

In most instances, service agreement disputes arise because businesses, in general, change rapidly. Therefore, banks need to understand that in any outsourcing agreement, flexibility has to be factored into the contract. This may be flexibility in terms of how the service levels are going to change as the business changes, or simply flexibility in effectively benchmarking those services against best practices to stay competitive.

One of the initial obstacles in outsourcing has been the issue of confidentiality. While this concern has somewhat been allayed through the proven professional handling by service providers in more developed countries, there are still hesitations among other banks in less developed countries that have not taken to the growing trend of outsourcing.

Staff redundancy concerns are more visible in countries like India where labor unions exert a great deal of control over the banks' staff. *Source: Asian Banker Research*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*Verified by Angelo Ocampo- Exec. Director, Consumer Union of the Philippines, Homer Maranan-Exec. Secretary, CAMPI, Arnel Manresa-DOTC Chief, Road Transport Planning Division, Jo Jayson Alcaraz- Vice Mayor of Muntinlupa.

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Marco Polo has new GM

From page C3

CHIU

Michael C. Kalyk, president of the Marco Polo Hotel Group, recently announced the appointment of Peter M. Chiu as the new general manager of the Marco Polo, Davao.

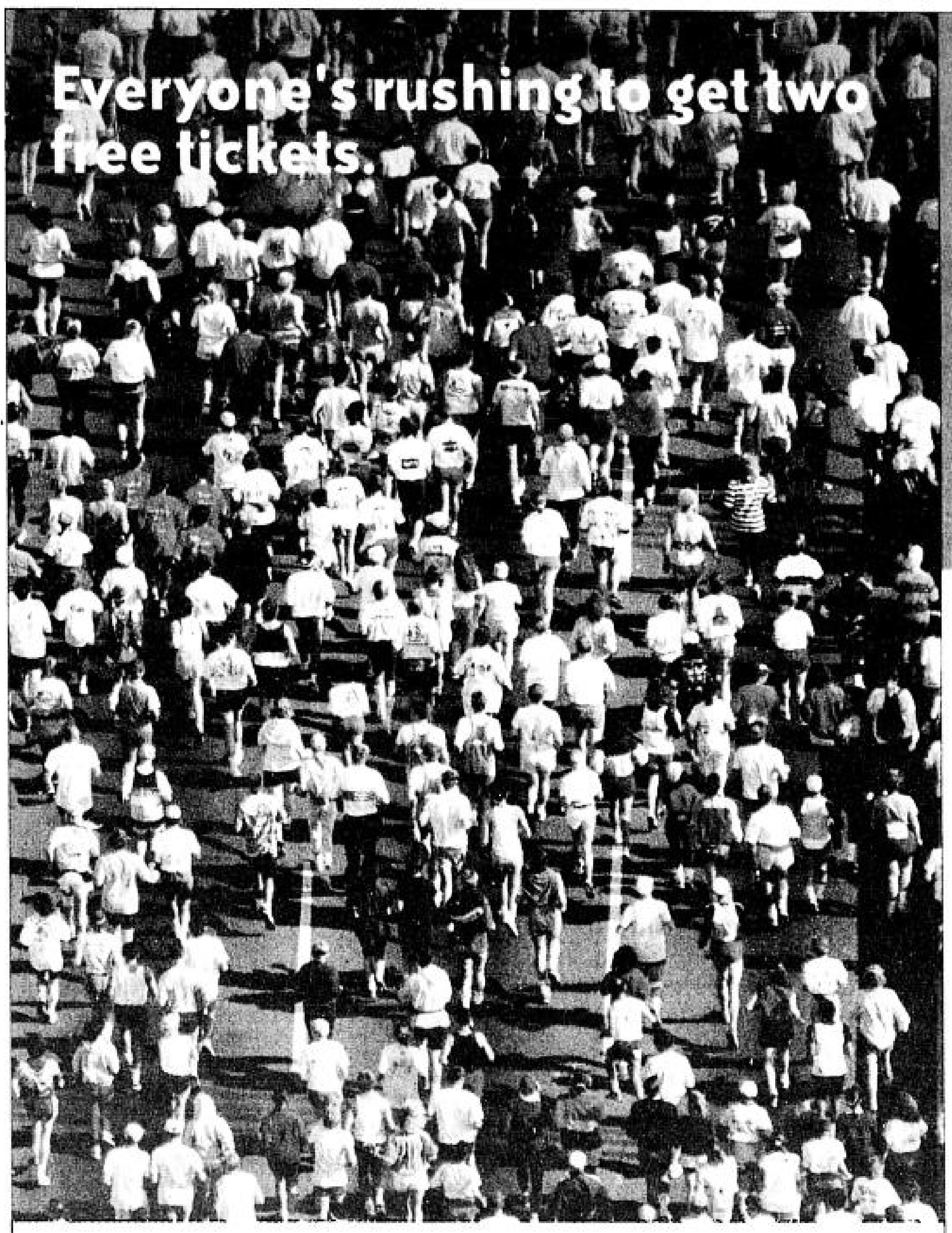
A seasoned hotelier having worked for major international hotel properties namely: the Sheraton, Ramada, Four Seasons, Mandarin Oriental and recently with the Pan Pacific Hotel in Singapore, Vancouver and California, Chiu brings with him an excellent background in hotel operations and management.

Prior to his appointment, he was manager of the Marco Polo Gateway in Tsimshatsui, Hong Kong, and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the hotel industry.

As the newly appointed general manager of The Marco Polo, Davao, and a proud addition to the Marco Polo Hotel Group, Peter M. Chiu aims to continually establish The Marco Polo, Davao, as the leader in the hotel industry.

NDING FILIPINO RETAILERS 2002

ISLANDS SOUVENIRS WINS RETAILER AWARD
For its being the epitome of a successful Filipino retailer in terms of growth and good ethical business practices, Islands Souvenirs was conferred this year's Outstanding Filipino Retailer Award by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Islands Souvenirs was recognized for its dynamism in international franchising. The company now has franchises in Japan, Singapore and, its most recent, in the San Francisco Bay Area in California, USA. It is also expected to open several franchises in the US Hawaiian islands within the year. This is the company's second award from the PRA and DTI. In 1997, it was named World Class Filipino Retailer for its store concept and its excellence in visual merchandising, operations and customer service. Receiving the award from PRA officials is Islands' founder Jay Aldeguer.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Don't delay, register for this special offer now at www.nwa.com/ph or www.klm.com.ph

* Choice of U.S. cities include Honolulu, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York (JFK). Travel to Honolulu in either World Busines Class or Economy Class will only qualify for 1 free award ticket within Asia

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

New hope for women suffering from miscarriages

THE ROLE of dydrogesterone (Duphaston) in reducing habitual abortions or recurrent miscarriages by making the immune system more receptive to pregnancy was recently discussed at a satellite symposium organized by Solvay Pharmaceuticals at the 9th World Congress of Gynecological Endocrinology in Hong Kong.

The new data suggests that immunomodulation – controlling the immune system response to pregnancy with the oral drug dydrogesterone – may be the key to successful pregnancies and full-term deliveries. Dydrogesterone is known locally as Duphaston and is distributed by Solvay Pharma Inc. Philippines (894-0688, or e-mail paul.pangilinan@solvay.com.ph.)

Habitual abortion or recurrent miscarriages – the loss of three or more consecutive pregnancies – affects about one percent of all women, according to professor Andrea R. Genazzani of the University of Pisa, Italy who chaired the international faculty. However, the risk of having another pregnancy loss after three consecutive miscarriages is as high as 55 percent.

Genazzani revealed that majority (50 to 60 percent) of these cases is due to structural chromosomal anomalies of the fetus, infections, and maternal endocrinological and anatomical disorders. The remaining unexplained cases are believed to be caused by an abnormal immune response of the mother to the fetus which is, in turn, caused by low progesterone levels in the body.

During normal pregnancy, large amounts of progesterone (the natural female sex hormone secreted by the ovaries) are produced by the corpus luteum (a small yellow area in the ovary found at the site where an egg has been released) and later by the placenta. This helps produce a special protein called progesterone-induced blocking factor (PIBF) which has pregnancy-maintaining effects.

Professor Julia Szekeres-Bartho of the University Medical School of Pecs, Hungary, said progesterone receptor-positive cells normally increase as pregnancy progresses. The number of these cells is significantly lower in women who are at risk for abortion or a miscarriage. Replenishing the body's supply of progesterone with dydrogesterone--which acts like the natural hormone progesterone--boosts PIBF formation and promotes pregnancy.

Dydrogesterone was first synthesized in the 1950s and is currently approved in over 90 countries. Clinical trials show it reduces the risk of recurrent abortion by 27 percent. Because it acts as an immunomodulator, dydrogesterone suppresses embryo rejection, thus improving the outcome of pregnancy. However, unlike other synthetic drugs, dydrogesterone is well-tolerated and has no significant side effects in the mother and the fetus even with high doses and prolonged treatment.

SUPPORTING PARAÑAQUE'S DRIVE AGAINST LEPTOSPIROSIS

Procter & Gamble Distributing Phils., through its flagship brand Safeguard, has pledged support for Parañaque City's drive against leptospirosis by providing educational flyers on the said disease and Safeguard health soaps. The effort is in line with Safeguard's commitment to help build a healthier nation by promoting good health and hygiene especially among children. Shown during the ceremonial turnover of the 'Safeguard Shield of Protection' at the Parañaque City Hall are (from left) City Information Officer Mario Jimenez, City Administrator Antonio Abad III, City Health Officer Dr. Monchi Vargas, P&G's external relations manager Aisa Yap, Safeguard assistant brand manager Joseph Malantic and Ace Saatchi & Saatchi's Joy Degollado.

THE RICHMONDE RECOGNIZES HONEST EMPLOYEE

Another employee of The Richmonde Hotel performs a meritorious deed in the line of duty, exemplifying the hotel's core values of honesty and integrity. Ramona Ibasco, room attendant, recently discovered a substantial amount of money while cleaning a guest room after the guest had already checked out. Ibasco immediately turned over the cash to management for proper endorsement to the rightful owner, who was greatly pleased and appreciative of the staff's honesty. In honor of Ibasco's commendable act, The Richmonde Hotel management awarded her with a certificate of recognition together with a simple token of gratitude. Ibasco was likewise given due praise by her colleagues for demonstrating upright principles and being a good example to other employees. Shown, from left, are Richmonde's executive housekeeper Linda Suico, Ibasco, managing director Menchu Fernando and director of human resources Lulu Yalung.

PWU COP 2002 champion

THE HOTEL and Restaurant Management students of The Philippine Women's University was proclaimed overall champion for the fifth year in the just concluded Chefs on Parade 2002, student category held at the Philippine Training at Trade Center, Pasay City.

The team won for PWU, now on its 83rd year, the presidential trophy for overall winner, the Chain des Rotisseurs Trophy, gold medals for table setting and on-the-spot cake decoration, silver anniversary trophies for cake decoration and table setting and bronze medals for dessert display, pasta live cooking and market basket classic.

Participating HRM students who garnered the gold medals were Adalbert Alcaide, Adrian Torres, Nelson Tamio, Angelina Nepomuceno, Allan Valiente and Christian Raymundo.

The bronze medalists were Mark Allen Cueto, Michael Navarra, Cherry Lou Pajarillo, Rashelle dela Cruz and Joric Talabucon.

Coach of the PWU COP was associate dean Milagros Magsanoc with faculty members Jimson Aguilar, Joseph Ditan, Pilar Carlos, Maricel Gatchalian and Bienvenido Tigao as assistant coaches.

The Chefs on Parade is an annual event organized by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines.

PHILAM PLANS' NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Philam Plans new president and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña, FLMI, LLIF (holding the flag) accepts the symbolic turnover of leadership over the leading pre-need company from founding president Eliseo P. Dizon Jr. (left). The turnover rite was witnessed by Philam Plans board chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr. (right). Assisting Hofileña is Manila north senior assistant vice president Francis Joseph E. Littaua (partly hidden).

BITS Clips

High-impact photos tackled

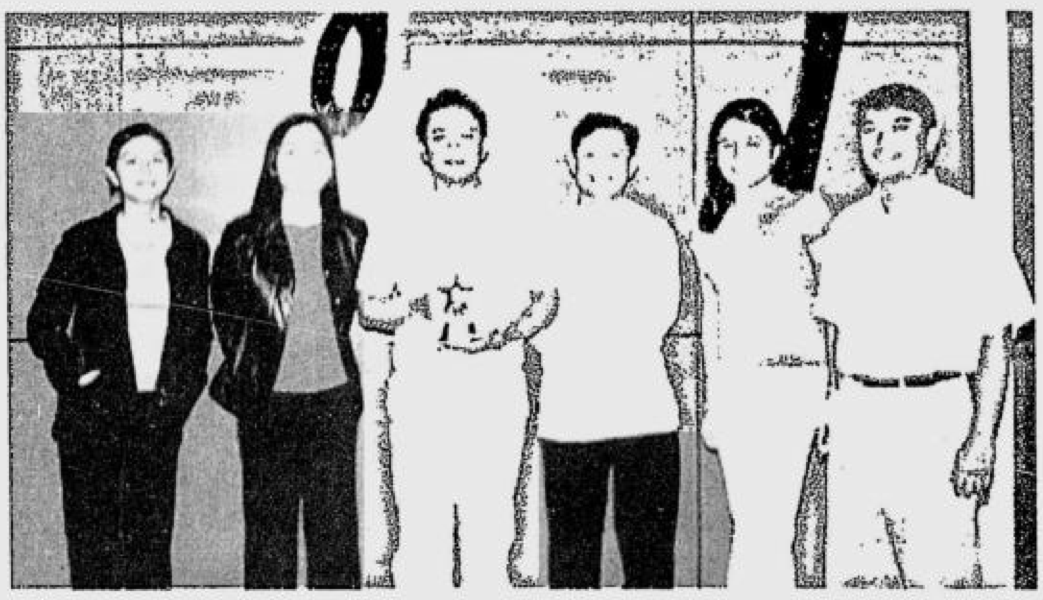
CAPTURE images as you see them in your mind's eye by acquiring expertise in handling your camera, mastering the basic aspects of shooting subjects, and understanding the concepts involved in the art of shooting. A seminar on Creative Photography, a basic course set for Oct. 21 and 22, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, teaches all these, and more. Commercial photographer Jacinto 'Jay' Alonzo will lecture. Participants are asked to bring manual SLR cameras. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709, 633-6728 or 637-4108 to 12 local 605.

Dental post-grad study

TRAINEES begin today their 10-month Post Graduate Study on Dental Implantology, a comprehensive program that willa llow trainees to know the science of Implant Dentistry through didactics, workshops and actual surgical/prosthetic implant cases. The course is being held at the Yuchengco Institute for Advance Studies, Level 5. Podium 4 of RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City. The course is organized by the Alpha-Bio Dental Implantology Center Philippines, in collaboration with Kital Ltd. Philippines. For more information, call the Alpha-Bio Implant secretariat at 0919-6439475 or 634-5101/3, 634-5116/8.

'Beyblade Challenge' set

THE SCHEDULE of ongoing weekly competitions for the Beyblade High Speed Challenge has been set for Oct. 27, Nov. 10, 17 and 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. simultaneously at Pocket Collector, Glorietta, Makati and at Toytown, Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. To compete, players 7 to 12 years old can use Beyblade structures Bit Tip, Attack Ring, Weight Disc, Spin Gear and Blade Base in building, customizing and battling with the emerging creations to win points and prizes. The Beyblade High Speed Challenge is conducted by Ban Kee Trading. For more information, call the Beyblade hotline at 732-7884, or visit Ban Kee's website at www.bankee.com.ph. Takara Beyblade products are exclusively distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc. and are available at all leading department stores and toy shops nationwide.



OGILVYONE WORLDWIDE WINNER IN DMA 2002 AWARDS

OgilvyOne Worldwide/Manila snagged a bronze in the best implementation of strategy in the recruitment. category of the Direct Marketing Asia 2002 Awards, touted as the most prestigious award-giving for customer relationship marketing in Asia, for the 'Men's Health Check' campaign it implemented for Viagra (sildenafil). The same campaign was previously feted with a bronze during the Araw Awards 2001. Shown with the DM Asia Award are (from left) Armi Consunji, OgilvyOne CRM planner, Leah R. Besa, OgilvyOne group account director, Vic Bataclan, senior product manager, PPG of Pfizer; Gerry Arnedo, marketing director, PPG of Pfizer, Kimmy Coseteng, corporate affair manager of Pfizer, and Ray Olano, associate director disease management category, PPG of Pfizer.

MUSEUM FOR RP CULTURE

The Elizabeth Seton School, one of the country's premiere learning institutions, has transformed its entire Las Pinas school premises into an Open Museum for Philippine Culture as part of its effort to inculcate love for the national heritage and traditions among its students, faculty and employees. As an Open Museum for Philippine culture, every classroom in the school was redesigned and redecorated to showcase the finest facets of the local culture, with each room representing one province. Shown are the members of grade 4 class Galileo with their Pampanga exhibit which included real *lahar* stoneware, fine handicraft and local delicacies.

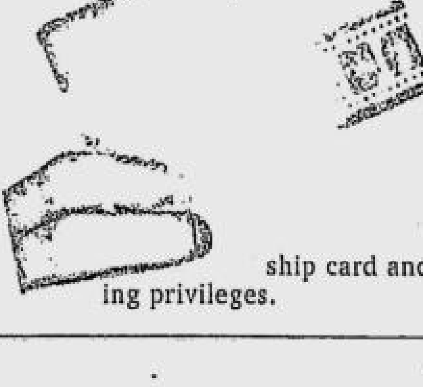
MOLECULES JOINS ROBERTSON MALL ANNIVERSARY

Molecules and Particles, a leading name in the apparel business, recently visited one of its provincial outlets in Sorsogon, Bicol for the anniversary of Robertson department store. To show its support to Robertson mall, two of its young celebrity endorsers, Kristopher Peralta and Melissa Martinez delighted local fans as they performed song numbers and gamely signed autographs during the anniversary show. Seen here at the department store are (from left) Siena Ignacio, mall administrator; Cindy Tan, branch manager, Kristopher Peralta, Melissa Martinez, Rose Ann Obiedo, vice president for merchandising and Marie Ceas, department store manager.

Product FILES

Video City membership card perks

ANOTHER exciting news from Video City. The leading video retail and rental shop in the country gives bonus discounts to all its loyal members. For only P15, you can now have a Video City membership card that entitles you to rental privileges and can also be used to get discounts from different establishments. The number of participating establishments continues to grow and the latest to join are Otto Shoes (10 percent off on all regular items), Marcella (10 percent off on regular items for a P100 minimum purchase), Kriztenzz (10 percent off on regular items for a P100 minimum purchase), CERlink Card Plus (20 percent off on membership fee) and Fujifilm YKL Color Lab (10 percent off on photo-finishing services). So hurry, get a Video City membership card and enjoy all these exciting privileges.



To buy or not depends on commitment

From page C8

In 1993, plant site operations began with some 600 employees. The number has since grown to 1,800 but, the new management noted there was no increase in productivity.

The new private owner went into a "right-sizing" manpower complement and offered packages to some 110 people covered by the "redundancy program."

"From the start, we wanted to show employees that a new business culture will be instilled. They are no longer government employees that regardless of how they would perform, government will continue to subsidize the firm's operations," Leviste says. "They are now business associates who have a lot to lose if the company closes down."

Landmark CBA

At no other time was the policy tested as when a landmark Collective Bargaining Agreement—with no wage increases—was forged last May between management and its militant labor union.

Employees got signing bonuses and quarterly amounts to be given in 12 installments over the next three years, totaling P68,000 for each.

Before privatization, Pasar had to contend with six labor strikes. The deal was the first CBA forged by Pasar with a union in the last nine years.

Cutting costs

With staff streamlined and reorganized, the team lost no time in instituting a slew of other corporate reforms. Foremost was to cut operating costs.

Notable was the reduction in the cost of buying copper concentrate, Pasar' basic raw material. Bought at $2.75 per metric ton in 1999, it was drastically reduced to average of $1.05 per metric ton in August this year.

Inefficient cargo handling at the Pasar port also cost the company millions in the past due to demurrage charges.

Industrial upgrade

Even then, the upgrade of facilities was pursued. Tapping foreign experts, the plant was constantly rehabilitated. And in being world class, this chemicals-heavy plant has all along been taking to heart environment protection as a key corporate thrust.

This year alone, Pasar invested $ 9.4 M in new facilities which include mist eliminators and gas collection systems. In fact this September, when the complex went on a 55-day upgrading shutdown, the bulk of the sum will go to environment-protecting facilities and systems. Existing equipment will either be redesigned or upgraded to ensure such.

Pasar's community-based, people-focused concern to reestablish ecological balance within and without the industrial complex continues to take root and hold water in numerous barangays.

For instance, some 15,000 mangroves and trees—in their varieties—will be fully grown by 2005, restoring watershed in the once denuded Isabela. On another, the waters immediately surrounding the complex are teeming with live, healthy fish.

Marketing

Despite efforts at industrial upgrading, Pasar faces the problem of a shrinking market.

Industry analysts have projected that declining consumption of copper will spill over to next year.

Economic slowdowns in the US, Europe and Japan have prompted mine closures and employment cuts.

Prices have also been on a steady decline, from an average $0.822 per pound in 2000 to an estimated $ 0.65 per pound this year, prompting more mines to close. 9/11 only made matters worst.

Pasar remained aggressive in looking for new markets which it mainly found in China—the only country expected to become the world's biggest copper user in the immediate future.

Sales performance

As demand for copper dropped, Pasar was able to increase its export volumes. Volume sales rose from 148,420 MT in 1999 to 173,172 MT by September this year.

Two years ago, the people of Pasar—from the janitor to the chair—gathered up in a seminar dubbed "Dowit." Spelled out, it exhorts one and all to "Do Whatever It Takes!"

The exercise brought about a common vision from top to bottom of making Pasar the best copper smelter in the world.

Perhaps the major lesson in the Pasar experience is that the success of the government corporations being privatized lies mainly in the vision and the commitment of new owners to ensure the long-term survival of the company.

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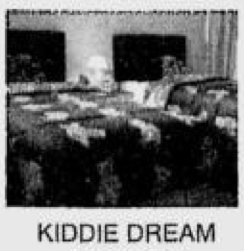

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IT WAS early 1999.

A thought kept nagging Carlos G. Dominguez as he, along with partner Jose P. Leviste Jr., was walking the plant site of the Philippine Associated and Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar) at the Leyte Industrial Development Estate in Isabel, Leyte.

"What are we doing here?" Dominguez asked.

Sprawled before the two prospective bidders doing the due-diligence rounds was a 16-year old copper smelting and refinery plant in shambles: dirty, messy, dilapidated.

Pasar, at the time, was state-run, under the National Development Co. It was, and still is, the only one of its kind here and the first in Southeast Asia.

Yet Pasar went the way of many a state corporate venture—eventually leaving government scrambling for funds to plug huge budget gaps, needing almost always to dispose of assets as the financial house keep crumbling.

"There was clear potential to turn around Pasar," Dominguez says.

First in Dominguez' agenda was tapping the right foreign partner which he saw in Glencore International AG, a huge Swiss-owned industrial conglomerate trading mainly metals.

By June the same year, a consortium of Filipino investors and Glencore acquired 90 percent of the government's shares and all its receivables.

The acquisition was widely considered a milestone in the country's privatization efforts.

A case was immediately filed by a losing bidder. The takeover was sure halted but after intense deliberations, the Supreme Court declared the winning bid valid and legal.

Still, Glencore requested its Filipino counterparts to manage Pasar.

Dominguez became chair and president and Leviste, vice chair and treasurer.

Hired were top corporate lawyers and top industrial leaders. But it was decided that the best of old hands be retained to provide continuity in Pasar's corporate experience.

TO BUY / C7

Call it Enron Corp.'s gift to corporate America

ONE year after the energy trader began to crumble under a cloud of murky accounting and even murkier off-balance sheet partnerships, US companies are coping with new rules and aggressive regulators, all inspired by Enron's spectacular collapse.

The US Congress has unleashed the most far-reaching corporate reforms since the Great Depression, imposing restrictions on auditors, tightening standards for boards of directors and increasing penalties for corporate wrong-doers.

Further, the major stock exchanges have proposed dramatic listing-standard revisions, and just about every trade group and corporate organization has come out with its own set of reforms and guidelines.

Few doubt such enthusiasm for change would have existed without a collapse as stunning as Enron, where just about every safeguard put in place to protect investors—including auditors, boards of directors, corporate controls, outside review by regulators and Wall St. analysts—was criticized for failing to spot its problems.

"I often say that in a democracy, we govern either through leadership or crisis. Much too often we govern by crisis—we need a crisis to take the steps that are necessary," said Leon Panetta, the former White House chief of staff who is an NYSE board member and co-chairman of the committee that developed the exchange's rule proposals.

"While everybody deep down knew that there were problems developing, it frankly took an Enron to shake the system up," Panetta said in an interview with Reuters.

Fear of future collapses set off a series of rule-making sessions everywhere. At the New York Stock Exchange, for example, a panel gathered at a boardroom in March with the goal of recommending changes to the listing standards by June.

Currently, the NYSE proposals need to be approved by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"The question that was always discussed, was 'What steps do we need to put in place to ensure as best as we could that we would not see future Enrons take place,'" Panetta said.

Reforms need a crisis

That, legal experts say, is typical.

"The history of Wall Street certainly suggests that legislation always follows a crisis -- they're never put there to prevent them," said Charles Geisst, professor of finance at Manhattan College and author of "Wall Street: A History." Enron, in particular, was hard for regulators and Congress to ignore because the devastation spread to Main Street from Wall Street. Thousands abruptly lost their jobs, and many more lost their life savings. Earlier this year, tearful ex-Enron employees stood before lawmakers and television cameras to talk about their lost pension savings and the hard times they had fallen on.

However, many also agree that if the flood of corporate shenanigans had ebbed after Enron, the response from regulators would have been more muted. But Enron was followed by a tidal wave of alleged malfeasance, including bombshells from WorldCom and cable company Adelphia Communications.

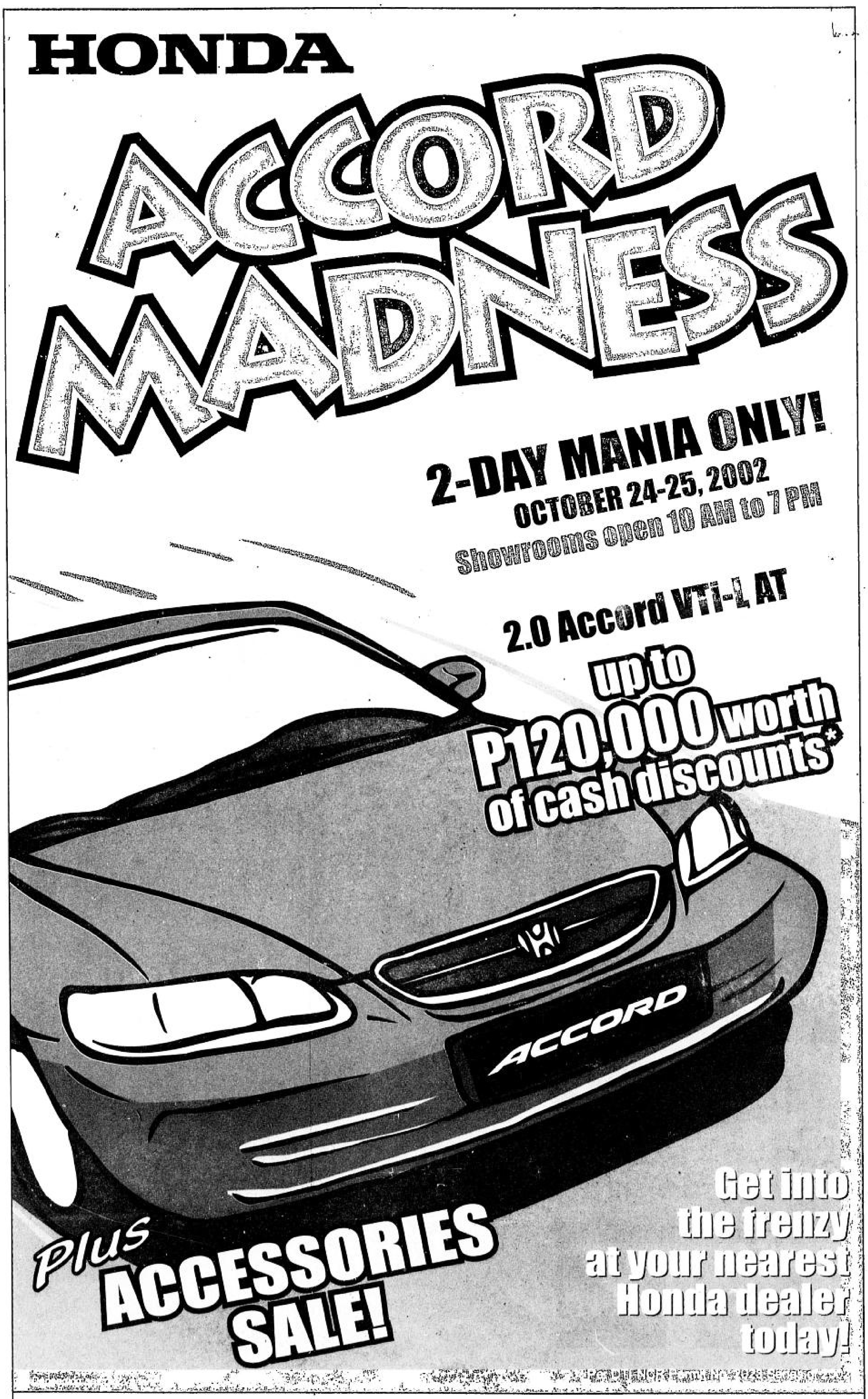
"I don't think people would have lost confidence in the capital markets without having had business failures, whether it was Enron or Worldcom or any other company," Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Chief Executive Jim Copeland told Reuters last week.

The accounting industry, for example, had lobbied hard to tone down proposed restrictions on the lucrative consulting services that accounting firms can provide to audit clients.

For a while, it seemed they were successful. After a series of hearings on the Enron scandal early in the year, the momentum for pushing ahead on tough legislation in Washington had begun to wane as spring rolled around.

But when WorldCom shocked the markets with a $3.8 billion improper booking of routine expenses in June (the figure was to rise later), lawmakers quickly set aside their differences to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley bill in one swoop.

Reuters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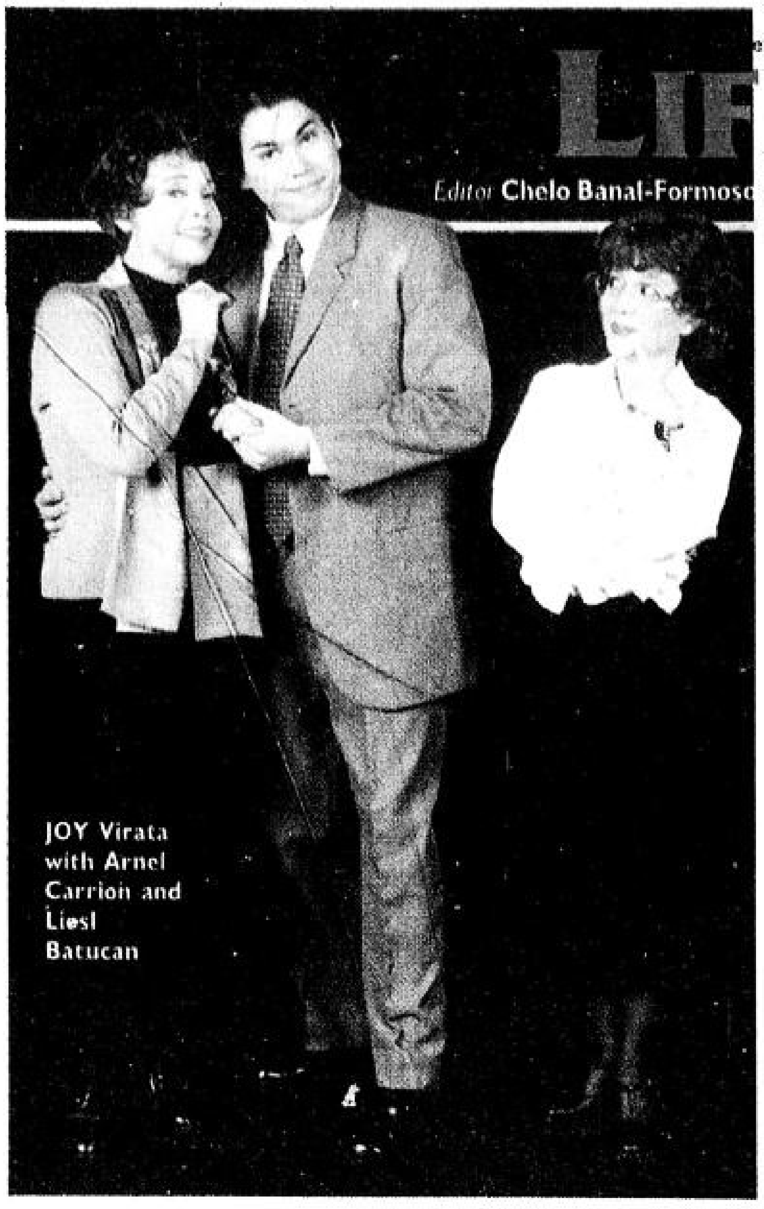

JOY Virata with Arnel Carrion and Liesl Batucan

REPERTORY'S 'FORTY CARATS'

Acting wrestles with age

Some of the laughs from the May-December romance comedy are intended, some unintended, especially when the actors don't look the age of the roles they play

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

THE YUPPIES behind me were giggling and squirming during the pivotal moments of "Forty Carats," Repertory Philippines' new production, directed by Baby Barredo.

Their delight and disgust were due to the effectiveness of the performances and the uncanny, if unintentional, and slightly embarrassing sleight-of-hand that the script dealt the actors. Jay Allen's well-known whirlwind May-to-December comedy has Ann (Joy Virata), an older woman being romanced despite her own resistance by the dashing 20-something Peter, who's young enough to be her own son (Arnel Carrion).

Complicating matters is that Ann's mother, Maud (Jay Valencia-Glorioso), is pushing Pe-

ACTING / p.D3

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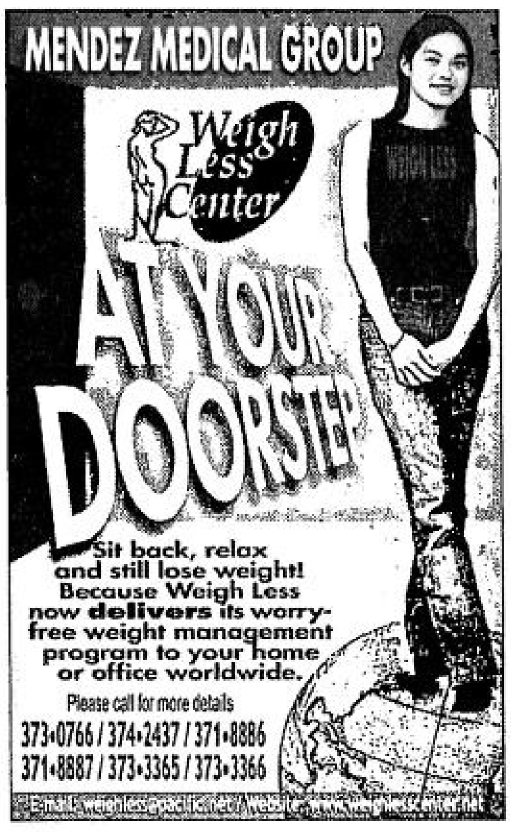

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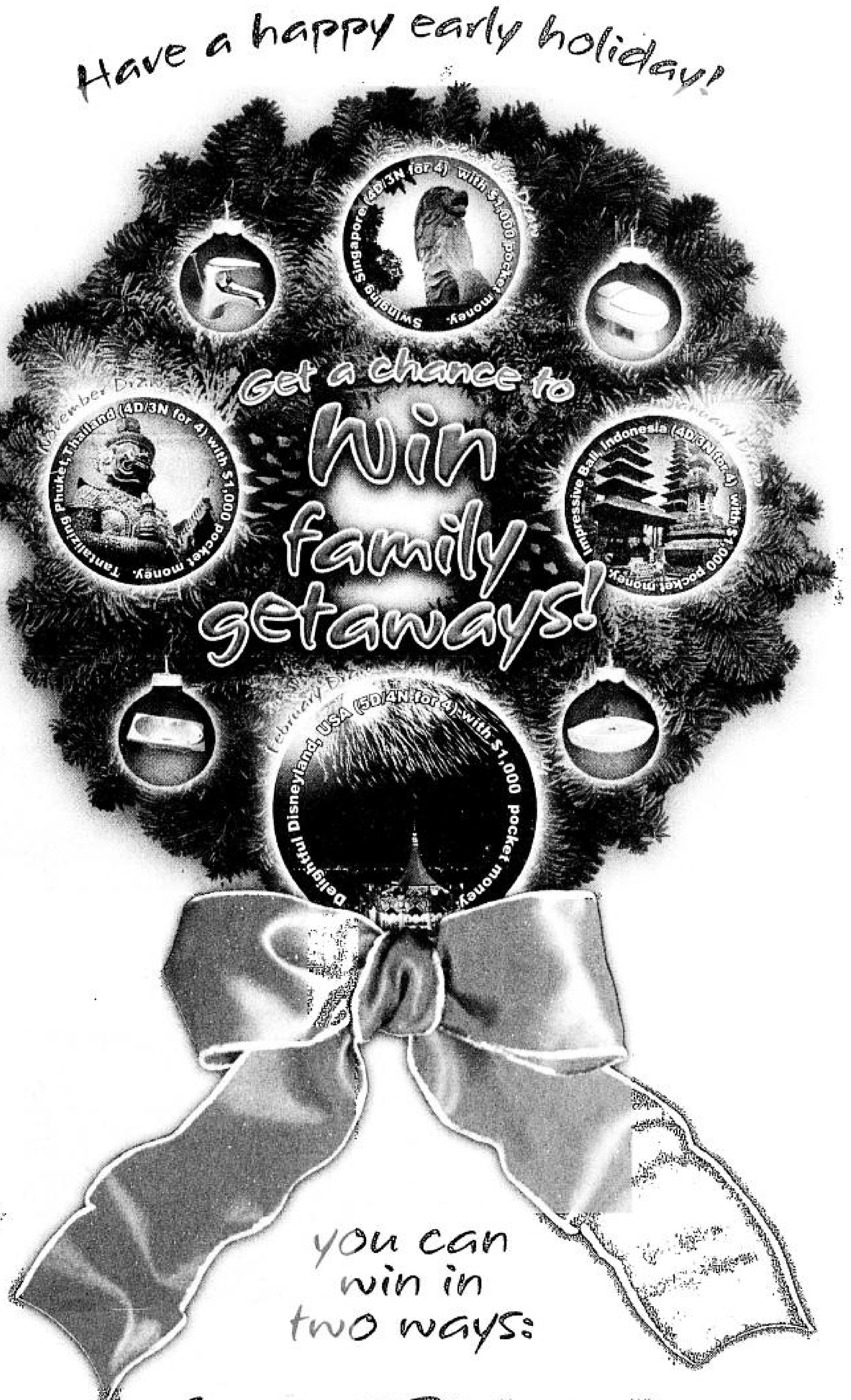

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Entremont makes Manila debut as conductor

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE MUSICAL event this week is the Manila debut of the Cadaques Orchestra of Spain at the Meralco Theater. Proceeds from this concert will go to Tabang Mindanao project, of which the INQUIRER is a supporter.

The concert will also be the Manila debut of pianist Phillipe Entremont as conductor. He was last heard in Manila in 1977 as soloist in Rach 3 and as partner of our own Cecile Licad in a unique duo concert.

Like Ashkenazy before him, Entremont has decided to make a major shift from soloist and recitalist to conductor. In this new role, one of his soloists is a Filipino—tenor Gary del Rosario, who is now based in Cleveland.

Those who are curious how our tenors are doing should catch up with various engagements in the next six weeks.

After Del Rosario, the recital to watch is that of tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, who just came back from the production of "Carmen" in Singapore (he will be back there in December as a soloist in "Magnificat").

After his resounding triumph at the First Pasig Summer Music Festival, De la Cruz goes north to Tuguegarao City on Nov. 12, in a recital at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University with pianist Najib Ismail and flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro.

Tenor Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Camille Lopez join Cecile Licad in a concert organized by the Philippine-Italian Association, Nov. 18 at the CCP Main Theater. The operatic arias will precede Licad, who will be soloist in Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Paganini with the PPO, under the baton of Ruggero Barbieri.

The other week, Licad made waves in Boston in a solo recital consisting of Chopin's Telves Etudes, Op. 10 and an all-Liszt program for finale.

Reported Keith Powers of Boston Herald: "Boston music lovers got a rare glimpse of the artistic thunderbolt known as Cecile Licad on Sunday afternoon when the pianist performed music of Liszt and Chopin at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Licad was mesmerizing. She plays as if she is in a trance, her head back or bent low over the keys to hear each tone. Sturdy players such as Licad, gifted but not without a bit of showmanship, make a compelling musical case for the work's place in the standard repertory. It is with the sonata that Liszt stepped out of Chopin's shadow... The Chopin etudes are dedicated to Liszt, giving the program a historical coherence. The physical challenges in the etudes are legendary, but Licad made them irrelevant, providing music, not athletics."

TENOR Lemuel de la Cruz makes his Cagayan debut on Nov. 12 at St. Paul University.

Here and there

Flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro had all the chance to show her lyrical side in Schubert's Introduction and Variations on a Theme from The Mullerlieder, Op. 25 (she was beautifully accompanied by pianist Mary Anne Espina), but she reserved her best treatment for Hindemith's Sonate for Flute and Piano and Gabaye's Sonatine for Flute and Bassoon with Adolfo Mendoza. In these two pieces, Deyro had the verve and rhythmic pulse to do justice to the composers' intentions. Her phrasing was excellent.

Deyro gave her graduation recital at the UST Conservatory of Music, where she ended the program with Mercadante's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra. She performed with the UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of her teacher, Eric Barcelo. Deyro's tones were solid and taut, but she probably needed another flute concerto in the company of Gabaye and Hindemith to bring out the best in her.

It was an excellent recital. Deyro should continue performing and feel her way to a comfortable repertoire.

* * *

Germany-based Filipino composer Alan Hilario, also a product of the Philippine High School for the Arts, recently held the world premiere of his latest work, "Phonoautograph 2002 for 4 female voices, countertenor, trombone, 4 turntables and live-electronic," at the Donaueschingen Musikstage in Germany. He is now married to a German flutist of a German orchestra.

* * *

That was also a very revealing recital of soprano Nenen Espina at the UST Conservatory last week with pianist Mary Anne Espina. I missed the entire Schumann Liederkreis, Op. 39 because of the terrible traffic on Gov. Forbes Street, but managed to catch up with Rodrigo's Liricas Castellanas and Filipiniana arranged by Alejandro Consolacion III. She wrapped up her recital with two Mozart numbers, "Parto, Parto" (from La Clemenza di Tito) and "Ch'io mi scordi di te...non temer, amato bene, K. 505," ably accompanied by a mixed chamber orchestra conducted by Hermenigildo Ranera.

Espina has a suave voice that grows on you. The Rodrigo number with Gary Silang Cruz (flute), Ludivico Mendoza (oboe) and Ruben Reyes (guitar) had palpable Hispanic flavor, and her Filipiniana entry with Gary Silang Cruz (flute), Hercules Santiago (flute), Brenan Bernardo (oboe), Frenvee Andra (bassoon) and Gerald Flores (double bass) had bites of wit and humor and discreet passion.

Her Mozart entries had natural sparkle, but some of them didn't quite register with her tightened vocal chords weighed down by tension. Just what is it in recitals (especially those in fulfillment of some degree requirements) that makes performers shiver with unexplained terror even despite the show of support by classmates and friends? Is it the presence of the jury or the mere thought that a slight mistake would ruin a semester's hard work?

TENOR Gary del Rosario (left) with baritone Robert McFarland in a production of "Rigoletto" in Cleveland

Arts festival presents 'Swan Lake'

THE BALLET, "Swan Lake," will be shown Nov. 9, 7 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, corner Makati Avenue and H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City.

Featuring the Association of Ballet Academies Philippines (Abap), the ballet will be the fifth event in the MCO Arts Festival 2002. It is presented by the Manila Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation and Equitable PCIBank, and supported by 98.7 dzFE.

"Swan Lake," a ballet in four acts based on a German fairy tale, is about Princess Odette, who is turned into a swan by an evil magician, Rothbart. She is discovered by Prince Siegfried, who falls madly in love with her and promises to rescue her.

Abap, a nationwide organization of ballet institutions founded in 1993, will present select variations of Acts II and III of the ballet. The ballet is the first collaboration between Abap and MCO.

Regular ticket prices for the "Swan Lake" are at P300. A 50-percent discount is offered to students/teachers. Senior citizens get a 20-percent discount.

The MCO Arts Festival 2002 will also feature the Clarion Chamber Ensemble on Nov. 28 and Dec. 15.

Call 818-1403, 813-3849 or 840-7000 local 2258, 2354 and 2630.

Look whose photo has just won prizes worth thousands!

Look who's reading.

An Inquirer Photo Contest in support of Visine's Read to Lead

Congratulations on your winning shot!

Week 1 winner:
Agnes Balde Alpapara
#59 Serrano St., Albay District, Legazpi City

Angel is eight months old. From the womb she was exposed to various learning lessons, hence her alertness and interest to coloful objects including books and magazines were enhanced. Her enthusiasm in reading was discovered when she received the Children's Encyclopedia. Reading is a powerful entertainment while craving for knowledge.

Thousands' worth of gift packs...gift certificates...and cash prizes for your winning photo!

WEEKLY PRIZES
• P3,000 worth of Gift Certificates from National Book Store • Visine Eye Drops gift packs from Pfizer • Gift Pack from Philippine Daily Inquirer

GRAND PRIZES
1st Prize: P15,000 in cash and gift certificates* • 2nd Prize: P10,000 in cash and gift certificates* • 3rd Prize: P5,000 in cash and gift certificates*
1 year supply of selected Pfizer products • 1 year subscription of Philippine Daily Inquirer
* Half in cash and half in Gift Certificates from National Book Store

Contest Mechanics:

1. This photo contest is open only to amateur photographers.
2. Submit a photo in 5R size if print, or 300 dpi if digital (in disk), featuring a person or a group of people reading books, magazines and newspapers in unusual poses, situations or places. Or photos that best capture the theme: "Reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained and can be done by anyone, anywhere and anytime."
3. Photos must be accompanied by a short caption of not more than 50 words describing the scene depicted in the photo. Entries should also have the sender's name, age, address, telephone number and school/office.
4. One winner will be chosen weekly from October 18 to December 16 and will have their photos featured in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Lifestyle section.
5. All 10 weekly winners (1 winner per week for 10 weeks) qualify for the grand draw. First, second and third prizewinners will be announced and photos will be published again on the last week of the promo on December 23, 2002.
6. Criteria:
   - Creativity
   - Originality/Uniqueness of Photo
   - Adherence to the Promo Objective
7. Mail entries to:
   "Look Who's Reading" Contest
   c/o Corporate Relations Office
   Philippine Daily Inquirer
   Chino Roces Avenue
   Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.
   Makati City
8. Only entries received from October 7 to December 10, 2002 will be included in the weekly contest. Winners can only win once in the weekly contest.
9. Only one photo per entry will be accepted. Duplicate entries will be treated as one entry and will be attributed to the first sender.
10. Photos must be original and not manipulated. Pictures submitted in print should ideally be sent in with negatives. Photographer must have obtained the consent to photograph subjects, venues and other details in photo. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Visine (Pfizer) and National Book Store will not be liable for any legal or civil complaint/suit that may arise from unauthorized publishing of photos submitted.
11. Organizers reserve the right to determine the validity of entries submitted. All entries received become the property of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Contest period: October 7 to December 16, 2002

Tetrahydrozoline HCl
Visine
Reading. It's a real trip.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Read to Lead
In cooperation with
National Book Store

SRI Lankan Ambassador and Mme. Pitidura Karunasiri

FINLAND Ambassador Raimo Anttola, Tony Rufino and Mme. Piiu Anttola

MELINDA Garcia, Portuguese Chef Antonio Santos and Marilen Altarejos

SEN. Loren Legarda, Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva and Manny Baldemor

Manila gets first taste of Portuguese culture and tradition

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

MANILA'S cultural scene is enriched by the holding of a Portuguese festival from Oct. 1 to 25 this year, under the auspices of the Embassy of Portugal. The celebration, held for the first time, is led by Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva. Part of the celebration was a concert of traditional Portuguese music and poetry on Oct. 11 at the RCBC Carlos P. Romulo Theater.

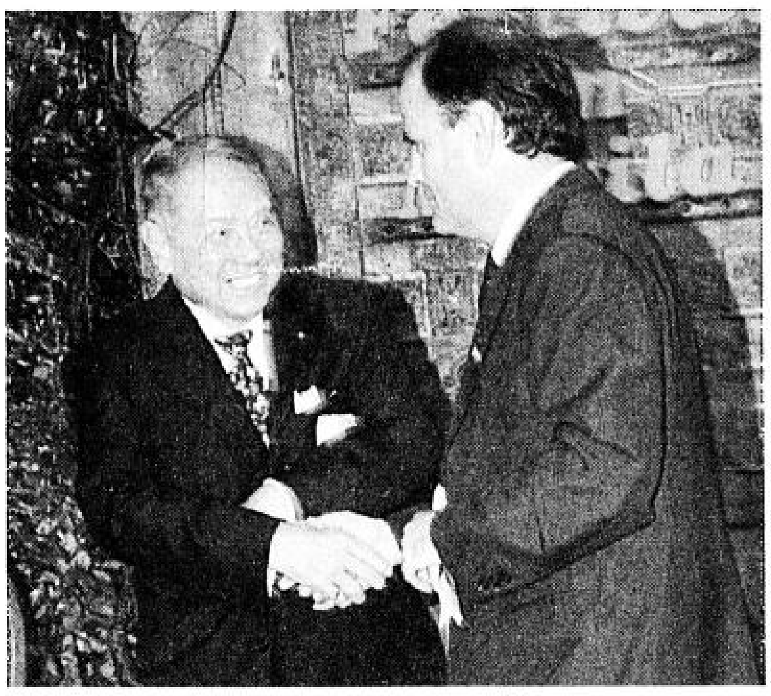
Da Silva, in his welcome remarks, underscored the strengthening of goodwill and understanding between Portugal and the Philippines through a cultural program that would showcase the best of what his country could offer.

Singer Isabel Silvestre, who hails from Manhouce, a village in central Portugal, enthralled the audience with her sensitive, soothing and earthy voice. Her songs had themes of emigration, nostalgia, festive celebration and religious devotion. The songs were traditional and popular in Portugal through different epochs, showing the cultural influences of the Arabs, South Americans, Africans and many more. The influences showed the cosmopolitan character of Portugal, one of the first European countries to explore new trade routes to the Far East, starting even before the 16th century when the Spaniards reached the continent.

Universal

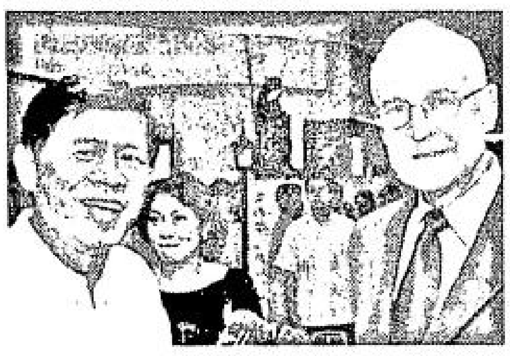
"Music is universal and through music, I bring the message of my country, Portugal," Silvestre said. "Poetry, hand-in-hand with music, are two of the most profound things in the human soul. Someone said: 'I am someone because of my country, and because of my people, I am great.' The greatness of man lies in belonging to his country and loving it with all the heart."

Statuesque and regal, Silvestre was more aural than visual, keeping a tight rein on body movements, especially the hands. There was no bravura—only simplicity and naturalness marked her singing. The songs, being folksy, were easy to follow. When a strophe was repeated, a muted echo was heard in the audience. Catchy songs were punctuated with rhythmic clapping and stamping.



AMBASSADOR Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



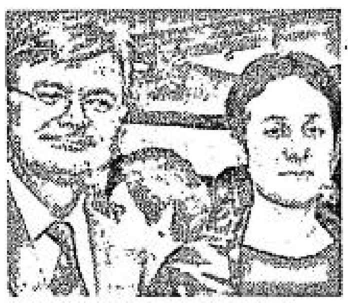
DONNIE Ramirez and German Ambassador Herbert Jess

IMELDA Marcos

Moving performance

She gave commentaries in Portuguese before each number, which were translated into English by Pedro D. Orey, one of the instrumentalists (acoustic guitar) that accompanied her. The other instrumentalists were Mucio Oliveira, mandolin, and Ruben Alves, accordion. In the end, Silvestre wrapped herself in a shawl with the colors of her country's flag and sang their national anthem with gusto. The sight was simply moving. It dramatized a line from the anthem, "to the weapons, to the weapons," which the singer, as explained in the program notes, had taken to mean "love is the most powerful weapon we have."

In between Silvestre's renditions, Da Silva read three famous poems from three celebrated Portuguese poets, namely, "Love" by Luis de Camoes (1524/25-1580); "Freedom" by Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935); and "Cantico Negro" by Jose Regio (1901-1969). The ambassador read biographical sketches of the three poets before reading the poems. He was best in the reading of Regio's poem, which was culled from "Poemas de Deus e do Diablo" (Poems of God and the Devil), written in 1925, and had for its theme the conflict between the divine and the human.



AUSTRIAN Ambassador Christian Krepela and Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben Abba

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique and Mariana Hubbard

One's ignorance of the Portuguese language notwithstanding, the ebb and flow of the lines, the lilting prosody and the spontaneous delivery, heightened by dynamic punctuations that the amiable ambassador made, absorbed this writer's attention, broken at the end by the heavy applause from the audience.

Fatima and other highlights

Another highlight of the three-week festival was a procession on Oct. 13, held in cooperation with the Rustan's Commercial Corp. The procession was held in observance of the 85th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's apparition on May 13, 1917. It was preceded by a Portuguese evening at the Grand Ballroom of the Inter-Continental Hotel, which featured a folk dance troupe flown directly from Macao, a display of traditional costumes, renditions of some songs by Silvestre and a sampling of typical Portuguese food.

Earlier, on October 12, "A Portuguese Evening" was held at the Grand Ballroom of Inter-Continental Hotel. It featured a folk dance troupe flown directly from Macau. Traditional costumes were displayed. Isabel Silvestre rendered songs. Traditional Portuguese food was laid out.

Festivity filled the air as the Grupo de dancas y cantares entertained the guests. The troupe, composed of young and mature dancers, made a dramatic entrance in traditional costumes, singing and playing traditional instruments. The audience received them with a big applause, punctuating the beat with hearty clap and stamping. The music reeled off, pulsating vibrantly in duple and compound duple. The instruments consisted of the traditional guitar, harmonica, tambourines, accordion, drums, sticks, pine cones and a triangle.

Of the costumes, the beaded wedding gown in black, with a white veil, and the shepherd cloth made of straw, made a tremendous impact.

On Oct. 15, an exhibition of ancient maps, under the heading, "The First Portuguese Maps and Sketches of Southeast Asia and the Philippines," opened at the Metropolitan Museum. A treat to the country's historians, history teachers and students, the exhibition comprised 50 works made between 1512 and 1571 by Portuguese pilots and cartographers.

The exhibition was followed by a conference that lasted up to the following day. Portuguese and Filipino historians tackled the topic "Philippine-Portugal Relations," centering on the difference of colonial perspective between Portugal and Spain in Southeast Asia.

PERUVIAN Ambassador Jorge Soto, Singaporean Ambassador Jacky Foo and Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma

'Plenty' becomes favorite small-talk subject

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE TALK these days is divided between the pros and antis for "plenty" of sex. Well, as they used to say, what's worse than being talked about is not being talked about at all.

Portuguese Ambassador **Joao da Silva**, with the indefatigable **Ulrike** at his side, and Rustan's Department Store, co-sponsored a Portuguese festival that included the opening of an exhibit and sale of Portuguese goodies at the sixth floor of the store. Ilocos Norte Rep. **Imee Marcos** selected the items, which included marvellous *azulejos* (blue and white tiles, including a particularly appealing one of galleon at sea), wonderful linens and thick bath towels as well as religious objects.

Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**, Rep. Marcos, Sen. **Loren Legarda** (who may or may not be entertaining thoughts about a house along the Pasig) and artist **Manuel Baldemor** cut the ceremonial ribbon. Just about everyone was there, eating Portuguese food prepared by the InterCon, which was hosting a Portuguese food festival at the Jeepney Coffee Shop at the same time—but you knew that.

Rising above the din of voices were the sounds of Portuguese music enjoyed by such worthies as Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma**, Swedish Ambassador **Ulf Hakansson**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and **Mariana Hubbard**, Brazilian Ambassador **Claudio Lyra** and the charge d'affaires with a baritone voice, **Carlos Carvalho** (who knows just about everyone there is to know), Venezuela's hardworking envoy **Milena Ramirez**, **Tessie Luz**, **Helen Ong**, **Evie Costa**, InterCon's **Michael Hermann** and **Jennifer Peña**, **Melinda Garcia** with **Marilen Altarejos**, fashion plate **Melly Ablaza**, low-key **Irene Araneta** (who, hopefully, can do a Cebu in Ilocos Norte through tourism, etc.), super Rustan's designer **Criselda Lontoc**, New York Times crossword puzzle-favorite Pinay **Imelda Marcos**, and others too hot or too cool to mention.

Portuguese Ambassador Joao and Ulrike da Silva have done a yeoman's job organizing the Portuguese festival, considering there were only three of them attending to the grueling details. Many thanks, of course, to the Tantocos of Rustan's who have obviously been very cooperative.

* * *

Whether reflecting on the state of the nation or people's feelings, the general comment on this year's Metrobank Foundation Young Painters Annual Competition was that the paintings were soooo sad and joyless. But for the painters, at least, the hefty cash prizes made for a happy occasion. The Netherlands ambassador, **Theo Arnold**, bought one of the prize-winning entries. It was a very well-attended affair, with many members of the diplomatic corps in attendance.

ISAGANI Monje poses beside his winning painting, "Pinag-isang Pangarap."

FINLAND Ambassador Raimo and Mme. Piiu Anttola with third prize winner Christopher Zamora

TONY Abacan, Placido Mapa Jr., Nestor Jardin and Anita Magsaysay-Ho award Rex Tatlonghari, first prize winner in water media.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

years
keeping
you in
hand

Acting wrestles . . .

From page D1

ter to her grandchild, Ann's teenage daughter Trina (Jennifer Jamora, alternated by Charlie Barredo). But Trina has her eyes on a father-figure lover, Eddy (Rem Zamora), who's supposedly dating Ann. To top it all, there's the perpetual shadow of Billy Boylan (Miguel Faustmann), Ann's ex-husband, who, in spite of his many flings, still hovers around her like a hawk.

The '70s movie version had Liv Ullman playing an ambiguously 40-year-old sophisticated, cynical lady of the world to the boyish charms of a very young Edward Albert, who looked every bit of his character's 25 years. Deborah Raffin's daughter was just blooming out of her late teens into early adulthood.

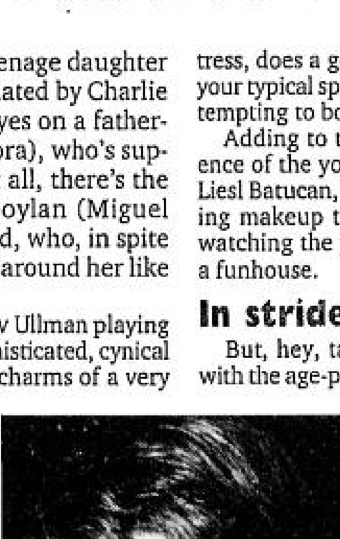
Reverence

While movie translations take liberties with the original script (either to the creative teams' praise or damnation due to differing results), theater thespians and their directors pay a little more reverence to the written word. Lines can't be cut or edited arbitrarily simply to fit an actor's looks, build or performance. It's the other way around, mostly. The challenge and burden lie with the performers who have to look and act the part. Or, if their looks don't quite cut it, let their acting prowess more than compensate by making their characterization very credible.

Rep's regular stable of actors delivers the goods as usual in their favorite genre. All deliver their lines with impeccable timing and phrasing. All of them know each other's moves by now and can respond in sync.

The performances get them through the rougher areas, namely when the script has the characters actually mentioning their supposed ages. Without being unkind to the actors, it strains the audience's sense of disbelief when the dialogue keeps on bellowing that Ann is just in her late 30s, Peter is just 22, and Trina is 16 or 17, and their real-life counterparts are obviously a lot older. The discrepancy clearly shows. Virata looks more like Glorioso's younger sister than her daughter. And while Jamora, a fine budding actress, does a good job of sulking and fretting like your typical spoiled high school kid that it's almost tempting to bop her—she still looks a bit older.

Adding to the sense of weirdness is the presence of the younger Rep actors like Jamora and Liesl Batucan, who were given thick, heavy, graying makeup to make them look older. It's like watching the people through warped mirrors in a funhouse.



VIRATA. She looks more like Jay Glorioso's younger sister.

In stride

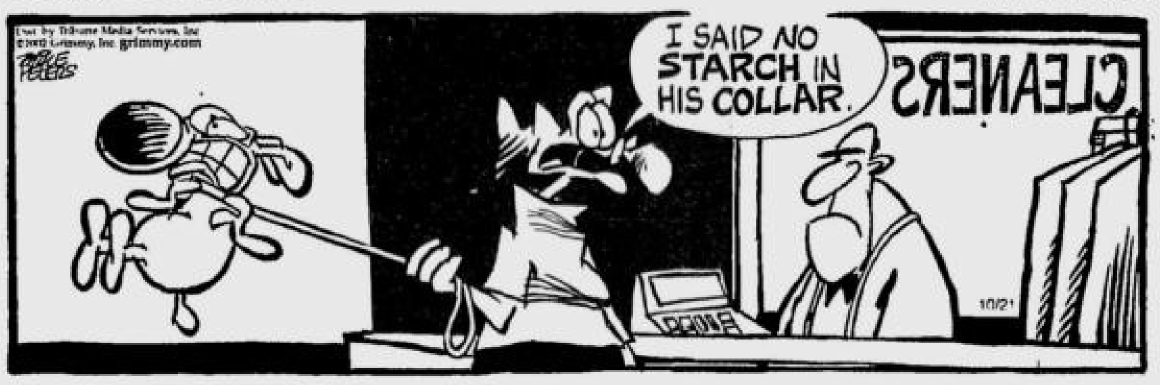
But, hey, take it in stride, even or especially with the age-pointing dialogue, and you can make it work for you. The actors actually do. Erase the age mention from your mind for a moment, and the characters' dilemma actually gains greater weight. The discomfort of Virata's Ann over her age discrepancy with Carrion's Peter becomes all the more poignant, and their forbidden romance more impossible. Carrion, whom Rep seems to be grooming as its next leading man, does look like a "serious young man" compared to Faustmann's irresponsible actor eternally trapped in his childhood.

One splendid cameo is Dulce Aristorenas', who looks and acts the part as Peter's menopausal mother and Ann's surprise ally. Aristorenas let her hair down and more in "The Vagina Monologues," but here she lets her cradle-snatching naughtiness ooze, slowly but surely. The silky, sweet, yet sly voice and wickedly arched eyebrow belie the smoldering passions—and human compassion for the confused Ann—under that formal, proper coat. In her short 10-15 minutes, the actress holds court on the stage, every bit the regal queen as her sultry, scheming stage counterpart.

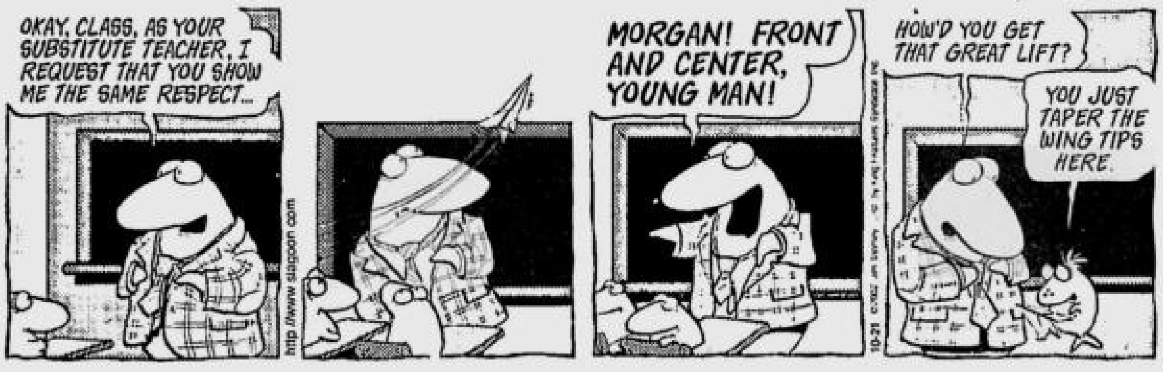
"Forty Carats" is still a hilarious ride, and the actors triumph over their physical limitations. But it also makes me wonder how the play would have fared given another cast, this time whose ages actually match the characters'. What about it, Rep?

Repertory Philippines' "Forty Carats" runs at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, until Nov. 3. Call 633-4821.

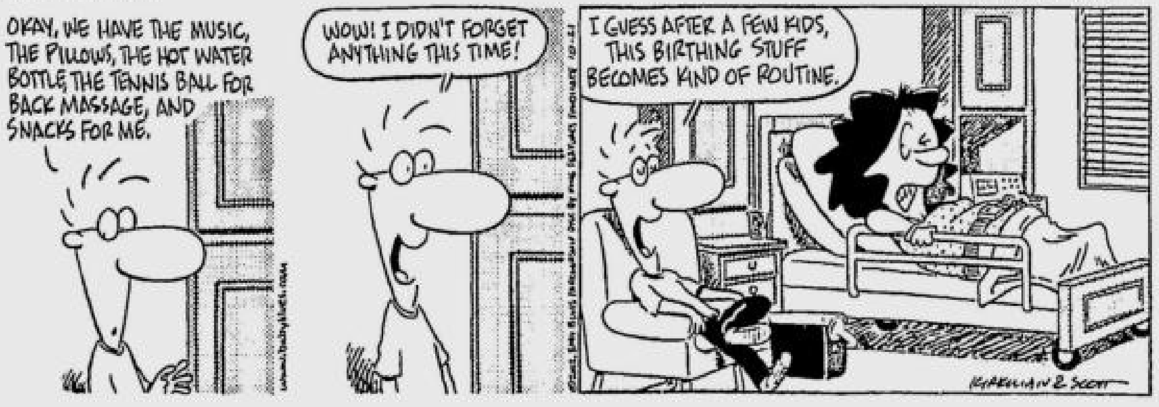
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
MIKE PETERS
I SAID NO STARCH IN HIS COLLAR.
CLEANERS
10/21

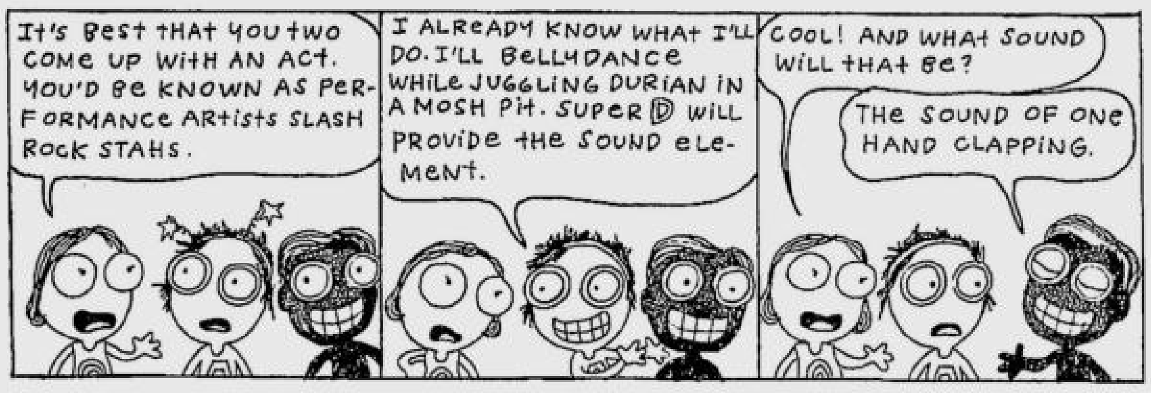
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, CLASS, AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, I REQUEST THAT YOU SHOW ME THE SAME RESPECT...
MORGAN! FRONT AND CENTER, YOUNG MAN!
HOW'D YOU GET THAT GREAT LIFT?
YOU JUST TAPER THE WING TIPS HERE.
http://www.slagoon.com
10-21

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, WE HAVE THE MUSIC, THE PILLOWS, THE HOT WATER BOTTLE, THE TENNIS BALL FOR BACK MASSAGE, AND SNACKS FOR ME.
WOW! I DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING THIS TIME!
I GUESS AFTER A FEW KIDS, THIS BIRTHING STUFF BECOMES KIND OF ROUTINE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


It's Best that you two come up with an act. You'd be known as performance artists slash rock stahs.
I already know what I'll do. I'll bellydance while juggling durian in a mosh pit. Super D will provide the sound element.
Cool! And what sound will that be?
The sound of one hand clapping.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carrie Fisher, Dizzy Gillespie, Patti Davis, Jeremy Miller

Happy Birthday: Don't let a stubborn streak stop you from doing something important. Get involved in something you believe in, but keep in mind that not everything has to be done your way. Your need to do everything by the book will stand in the way of your accomplishments. Your numbers are 10, 16, 22, 27, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Encourage members of your family to pull their weight. Let them know that you are overloaded and need help. Organize your day well to avoid setbacks that will lead to temper tantrums.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have difficulties while traveling or problems dealing with close friends or relatives. Work at home clearing up overdue projects and reorganizing those things that slow you down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. The diversion will be energizing. You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can anger others quite quickly today. Think before you speak. Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you. Spend some time together to discuss things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems at a later date. Be careful what you say and to whom you say it. You should be considering pleasure trips or entertainment that will require energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This will not be the day to get involved in risky joint financial ventures. Tuck your money away where no one will be able to touch it, including yourself, so you will have money for that rainy day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor illness. Make attempts to resolve your differences. Use your diplomacy to get your point across gently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. Don't let co-workers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. Curtail the socializing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension. Consider joining a gym or participating in a team sport. Better yet, try yoga or tai chi.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional integrity. Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your ways. Don't take anything personally.

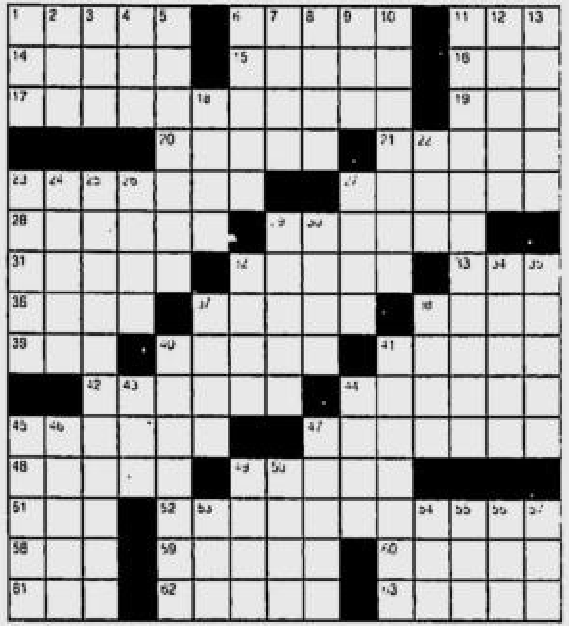
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Examine the situation carefully from all angles. Don't give up what you have until you can be certain just what it is you're getting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Speak up if a coworker is taking credit for your work. Don't let it fester. Get into fitness programs that will keep you in shape and make you feel healthier.

Birthday Baby: You will be a dedicated and loyal friend. You will always look for the best way to do things. You will have wonderful insight and will tune into future trends. You will be stubborn, inventive and not necessarily practical.

DAILY CROSSWORD

tmsPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

10/21/02

ACROSS
1 Famous fair lady
6 Shady spot
11 Launch area
14 Stalin's predecessor
15 Call forth
16 "Much __ About Nothing"
17 Seneca, Cayuga, et al.
19 Straw drawn
20 Hayley of "Pollyanna"
21 Entice
23 German castle
27 Warm and snug
28 Stritch or May
29 Agitate
31 Old-time peep show
32 High-pitched hum
33 Actor Scheider
36 Pakistani tongue
37 "The __ Bunch"
38 Small rodents
39 __ culpa
40 Frothy
41 Marine ray
42 Bit of trouble
44 Denver pro
45 Contemporary of Degas
47 Ceases
48 John or John Quincy
49 Windmill blades
51 A mean Amin
52 Dunce
58 Zilch
59 Spooky
60 Newly hatched stage
61 You bet!
62 Feats
63 Water vapor

DOWN
1 Sprite
2 Wahine's gift
3 Lodging house
4 Sharp turn
5 Flower or sea polyp
6 Carillon components
7 Elliptical
8 Moo goo gai pan pans
9 __ out a living
10 Make good as new
11 California desert oasis
12 Take on as one's own
13 A bit eccentric
18 __ and shine!
22 French water
23 Medicinal fluid
24 Irish county
25 Tough
26 In __ of
27 Minuscule
29 __ on you!
30 Word with sum or up
32 Envelop
34 Eight-piece band
35 "The Winding Stair" poet
37 Wild swine
38 Three visitors from the East
40 Patted down
41 Bivalve mollusks
43 Dot follower
44 Jodie Foster title role
45 Wet out
46 Fisher or Money
47 Holland sights
49 Confident
50 Etcher's fluid
53 Word before a maiden name
54 Sombrero, e.g.
55 Afore
56 Actress Gardner
57 Beaver project

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

W	I	S	H	E	S	■	T	O	P	S	I	D	E	S
I	C	I	E	S	T	■	A	V	I	A	R	I	S	T
S	O	L	A	C	E	■	D	E	C	L	A	S	S	E
E	N	T	R	A	P	S	■	N	A	T	■	P	E	T
■	■	■	S	P	O	O	F	■	■	S	H	U	N	S
S	C	R	E	E	N	D	O	O	R	■	O	T	T	O
N	O	O	S	E	■	■	R	U	B	■	W	A	I	N
A	R	C	■	S	I	B	E	R	I	A	■	B	A	H
I	R	K	S	■	S	A	L	■	■	C	A	L	L	A
L	E	E	R	■	P	R	E	A	C	H	I	E	S	T
S	C	R	O	D	■	■	G	L	A	I	R	■	■	■
P	T	A	■	E	L	K	■	S	M	E	L	T	E	D
A	I	R	P	L	A	N	E	■	E	V	E	R	L	Y
C	O	M	E	L	I	E	R	■	R	E	S	U	M	E
E	N	S	N	A	R	E	R	■	A	S	S	E	S	S

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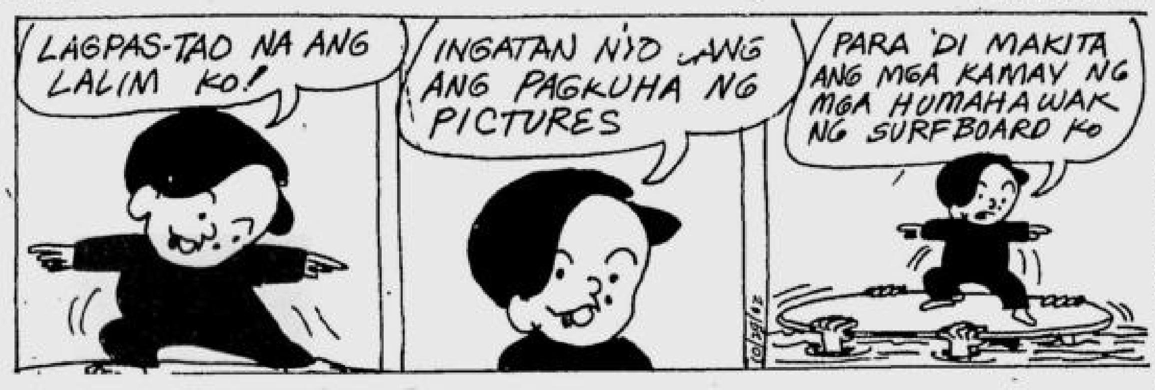
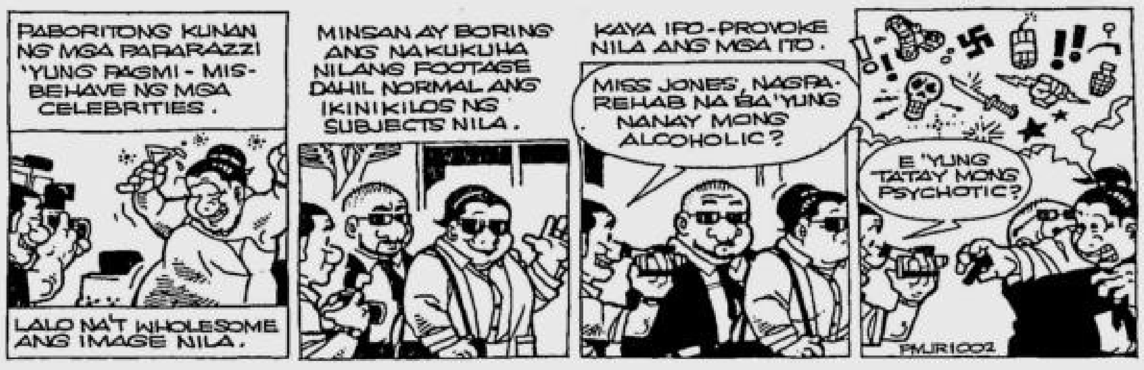
10/21/02

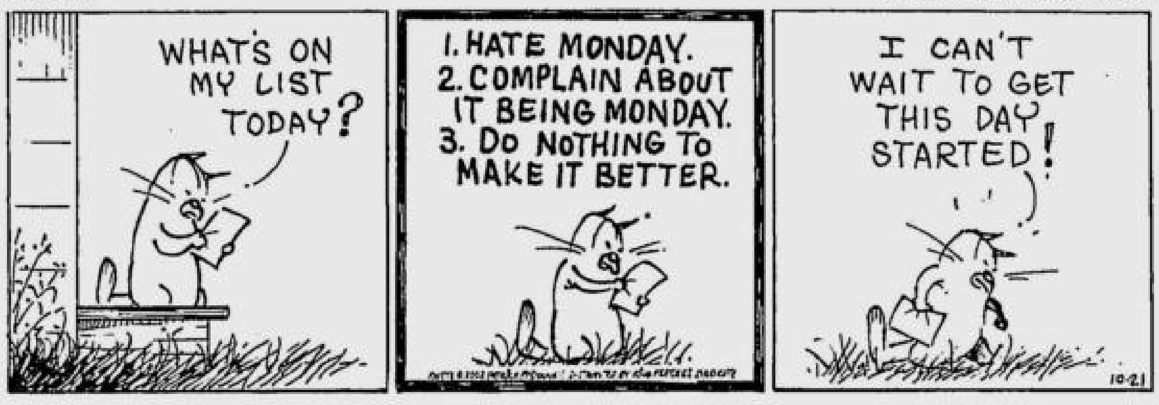
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


LAGPAS-TAO NA ANG LALIM KO!
INGATAN N'YO LANG ANG PAGKUHA NG PICTURES
PARA 'DI MAKITA ANG MGA KAMAY NG MGA HUMAHAWAK NG SURFBOARD KO

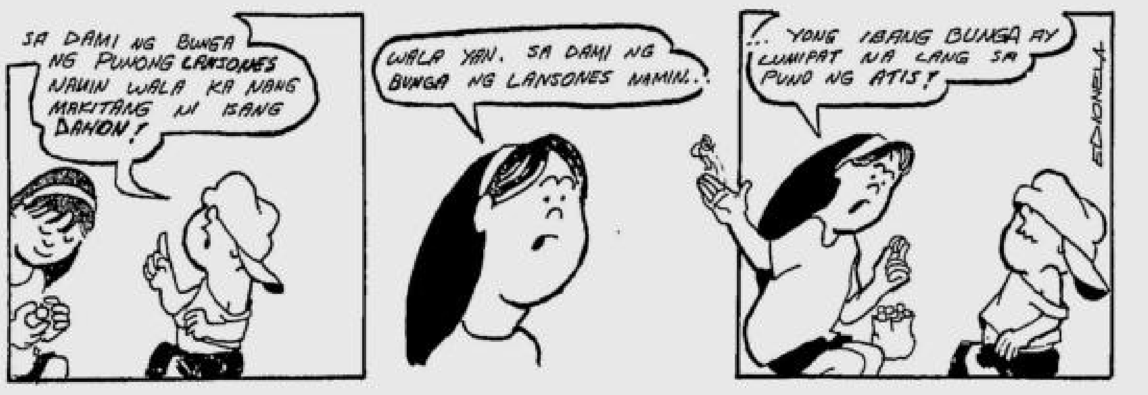
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PABORITONG KUNAN NG MGA PAPARAZZI 'YUNG PAGMI-MISBEHAVE NG MGA CELEBRITIES.
LALO NA'T WHOLESOME ANG IMAGE NILA.
MINSAN AY BORING ANG NAKUKUHA NILANG FOOTAGE DAHIL NORMAL ANG IKINIKILOS NG SUBJECTS NILA.
KAYA IPO-PROVOKE NILA ANG MGA ITO.
MISS JONES, NAGPA-REHAB NA BA 'YUNG NANAY MONG ALCOHOLIC?
E 'YUNG TATAY MONG PSYCHOTIC?
PMJR1002

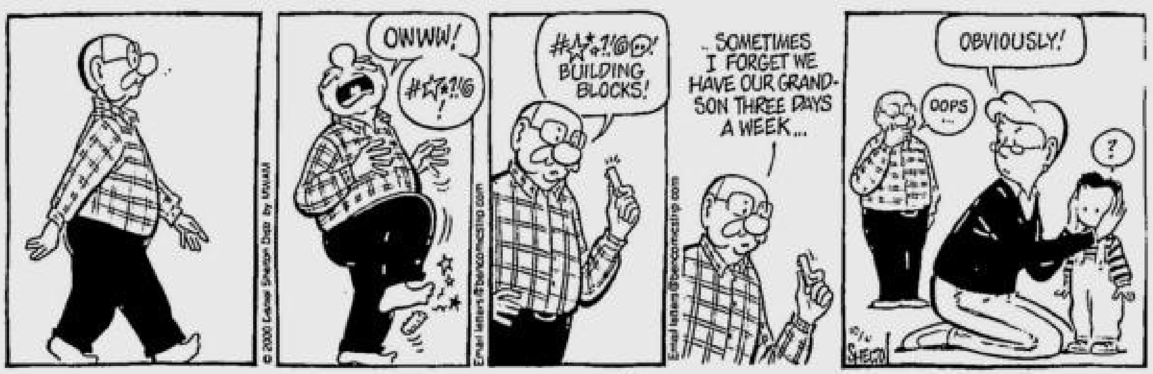
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
1. HATE MONDAY.
2. COMPLAIN ABOUT IT BEING MONDAY.
3. DO NOTHING TO MAKE IT BETTER.
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THIS DAY STARTED!
10-21

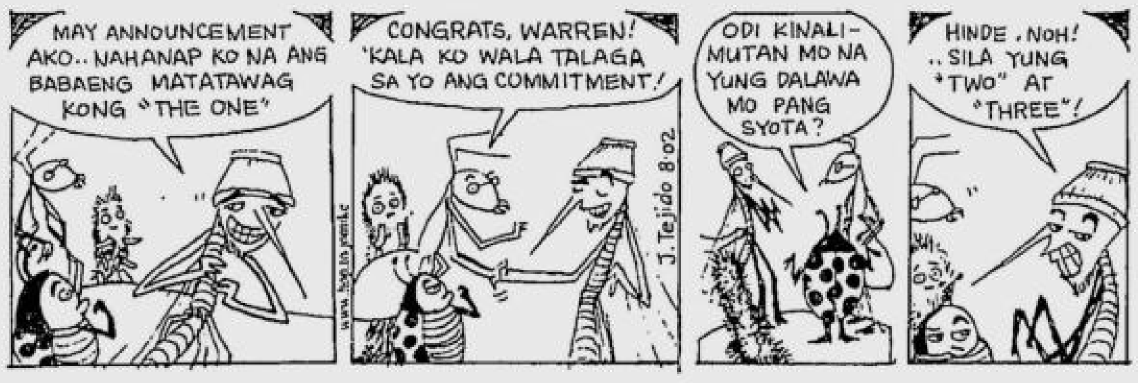
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SA DAMI NG BUNGA NG PUNONG LANSONES NAMIN WALA KA NANG MAKITANG NI ISANG DAHON!
WALA YAN. SA DAMI NG BUNGA NG LANSONES NAMIN...
...YONG IBANG BUNGA AY LUMIPAT NA LANG SA PUNO NG ATIS!
EDIONELA

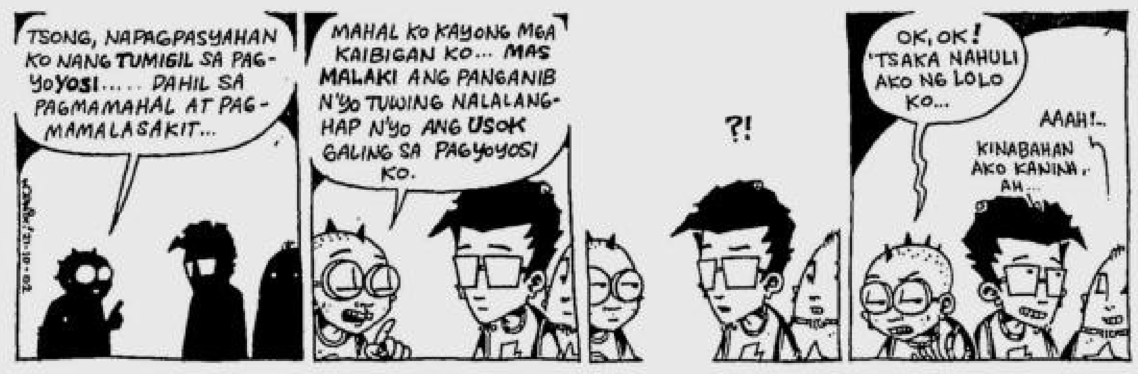
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


OWWW!
#☆*!%
#☆*!@@! BUILDING BLOCKS!
...SOMETIMES I FORGET WE HAVE OUR GRANDSON THREE DAYS A WEEK...
OBVIOUSLY!
OOPS
?
SHELTON

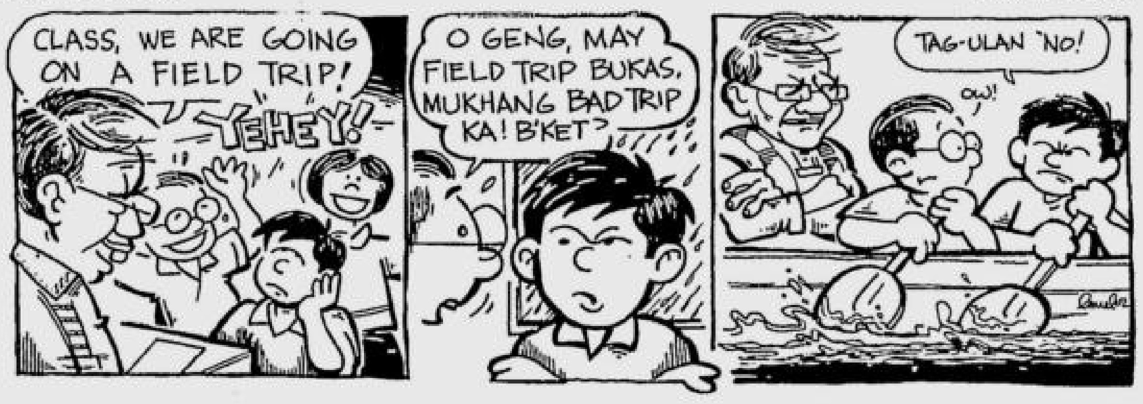
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAY ANNOUNCEMENT AKO.. NAHANAP KO NA ANG BABAENG MATATAWAG KONG "THE ONE"
CONGRATS, WARREN! 'KALA KO WALA TALAGA SA YO ANG COMMITMENT!
J. Tejido 8·02
ODI KINALIMUTAN MO NA YUNG DALAWA MO PANG SYOTA?
HINDE, NOH! ..SILA YUNG "TWO" AT "THREE"!

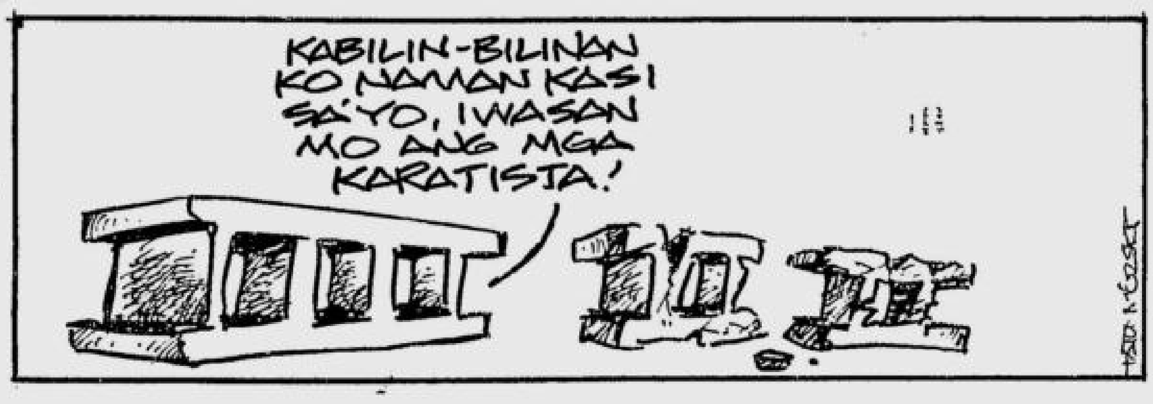
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

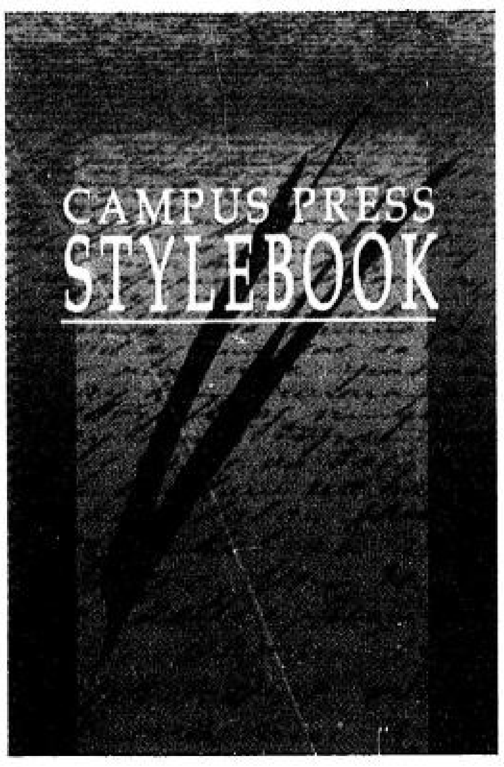

TSONG, NAPAGPASYAHAN KO NANG TUMIGIL SA PAGYOYOSI..... DAHIL SA PAGMAMAHAL AT PAGMAMALASAKIT...
MAHAL KO KAYONG MGA KAIBIGAN KO... MAS MALAKI ANG PANGANIB N'YO TUWING NALALANGHAP N'YO ANG USOK GALING SA PAGYOYOSI KO.
?!
OK, OK! 'TSAKA NAHULI AKO NG LOLO KO...
AAAH!.. KINABAHAN AKO KANINA, AH...

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


CLASS, WE ARE GOING ON A FIELD TRIP!
YEHEY!
O GENG, MAY FIELD TRIP BUKAS, MUKHANG BAD TRIP KA! B'KET?
TAG-ULAN 'NO!
OW!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KABILIN-BILINAN KO NAMAN KASI SA'YO, IWASAN MO ANG MGA KARATISTA!



Heaven's Kitchen
Inspirationals and prayers for Young Filipinos
By
The UST Varsitarian

UST campus press stylebook to be launched

A HELPFUL style guide to campus journalism in the Philippines will be launched on Oct. 24, 6 p.m., at the St. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex of the University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila.

The guidebook, "The UST Varsitarian Campus Press Stylebook," consolidates the rules on usage and writing in English that have evolved from the practice of campus journalism since 1928 of the Varsitarian, the official student organ of UST. The rules have been refined through three generations by advisers, editors and writers of the paper, such as Jose Villa Panganiban, Jose Bautista, Antonio Molina, Celso Carunungan and Felix Bautista. The general editor of the stylebook is the INQUIRER's Lito Zulueta, the faculty adviser of the Varsitarian.

The style rules of the Varsitarian have guided many of the leading names in journalism and literature in the country. Those who honed their writing skills in the paper include National Artists Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana and F. Sionil Jose, Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, Centennial Literary Grand Prize winner Cirilo Bautista, Jose Burgos Jr., Jullie Yap Daza, and columnists Neal Cruz, Rina Jimenez David, Jose Guevarra and Antonio Lopez.

The book is published by the Varsitarian and the UST Publishing House in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of the paper on Jan. 16, 2002.

Also to be launched is "Heaven's Kitchen: Inspirationals and Prayers for Young Filipinos," a collection of essays on youth spirituality originally published in the Varsitarian.

Call 731-3522 or 731-3101 loc. 8235, 8252, 8278.

National workshop of student journalists

TO PROMOTE excellence and cooperation in the Philippine campus press, the Varsitarian, the 74-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2002: The Fourth UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship, on Oct. 24 and 25 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

Several schools from all over the country have registered, including the Angeles University Foundation, University Regina Carmeli, San Carlos Seminary, Isabela State University, St. Bartholomew Academy of Batanes, Lyceum of Camiguin, Sacred Heart College, University of St. Louis-Cagayan, San Pedro College of Business Administration, Cagayan State University, Don Bosco Seminary, Central Luzon State University High School, University of the Philippines-Baguio, UP Diliman, Makati Science High School, Holy Rosary Minor College, Far Eastern University, Bicol University, Western Mindanao State University and Mapua Institute of Technology.

This seminar-workshop is useful to student writers, campus press advisers, high school and college journalism instructors, students and school officials nationwide.

Speakers include Pennie Azarcon Cruz of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine, Jesselyn Garcia-dela Cruz of the CBCP Monitor, Joaquin "Quinito" Henson of the Philippine Star, Luz Rimban of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo of the University of the Philippines Press, and Nestor Cuartero of Tempo.

The highlight of this year's fellowship is the launching of "The UST Varsitarian Campus Press Stylebook" and "Heaven's Kitchen," an inspirational guidebook for young people, during the fellowship night on Oct. 24.

The fellowship will close with the awarding ceremonies of the Second National Campus Investigative Journalism Award on Oct. 25.

Registration is still open, but only a limited number of slots are available.

Visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 112, UST Main Building, or call 731-3101 loc. 8235, look for John Ferdinand Buen ([0918] 938-0502) or Julienne Therese Villaluz ([0916] 848-5244). E-mail varsitar@ yahoo.com or register online at www.varsitarian.com/inkblots.

Book on funny side of Pinoy living in the US

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "Suddenly Stateside: Funny Essays on Pinoy Life in America" by Marivi Soliven Blanco.

Written with loads of panache by a young *imie* with an attitude, who is also an accomplished writer, this hilarious book will entertain readers with the side-splitting humor of its series of short takes on the zany side of Fil-Ams in America.

Among other things, readers will learn what it's like to: baby sit a pet *daga*, live high on the cheap, put down flashers, cope with garish Las Vegas, survive freezing winters, battle racists, pass real driving tests and get a green card.

SUDDENLY STATESIDE
funny essays on pinoy life in America
MARIVI SOLIVEN BLANCO
MILFLORES PUBLISHING, INC.

The political, social and cultural insights of Marivi will enable readers to think and feel with the numerous Fil-Am communities scattered across the vastness of America, as Fil-Ams struggle to create their identity by maintaining Pinoy traditions while surviving in their often inhospitable new home. To empathize with the many dilemmas of Fil-Ams as they are constantly forced to make harsh choices. To pity Fil-Ams, even. Until she springs on her readers the astounding idea that all these are really only the necessary vicissitudes of a secret invasion that actually intends to transform the US into the Philippines.

The author won first prize for fiction in the 1998 Free Press Literary Awards and two Palanca Awards for her books for children. She taught English and Creative Writing classes at UP Diliman, holds a B.A. in Mass Communications from the UP, and an M.A. in Teaching from the Simmons College, Boston. She moved to California in 1996, where she works on Filipino-American issues with various educational and non-profit organizations.

"Suddenly Stateside" sold out all copies in the recent Book Fair at the Megamall and is now on its second printing. It is available at the National, Goodwill, Bookmark, Bibliarch, Solidaridad, PowerBooks and other book stores at P280 per copy.

Best sellers by professional growth guru

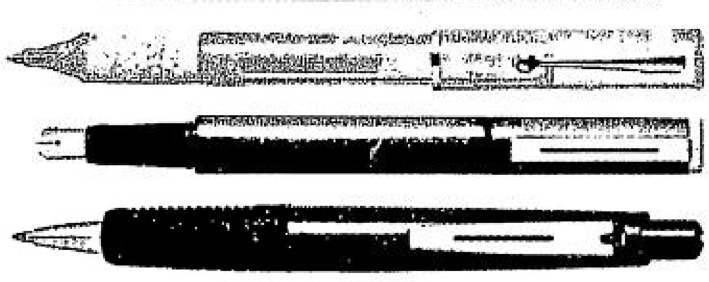
AUTHOR of the month Brian Tracy

BRIAN Tracy, one of the world's leading authorities on personal and professional development, is National Book Store's author of the month. He is a dynamic and entertaining speaker, addressing 450,000 people each year to inform and inspire them toward peak performance and high levels of achievement.

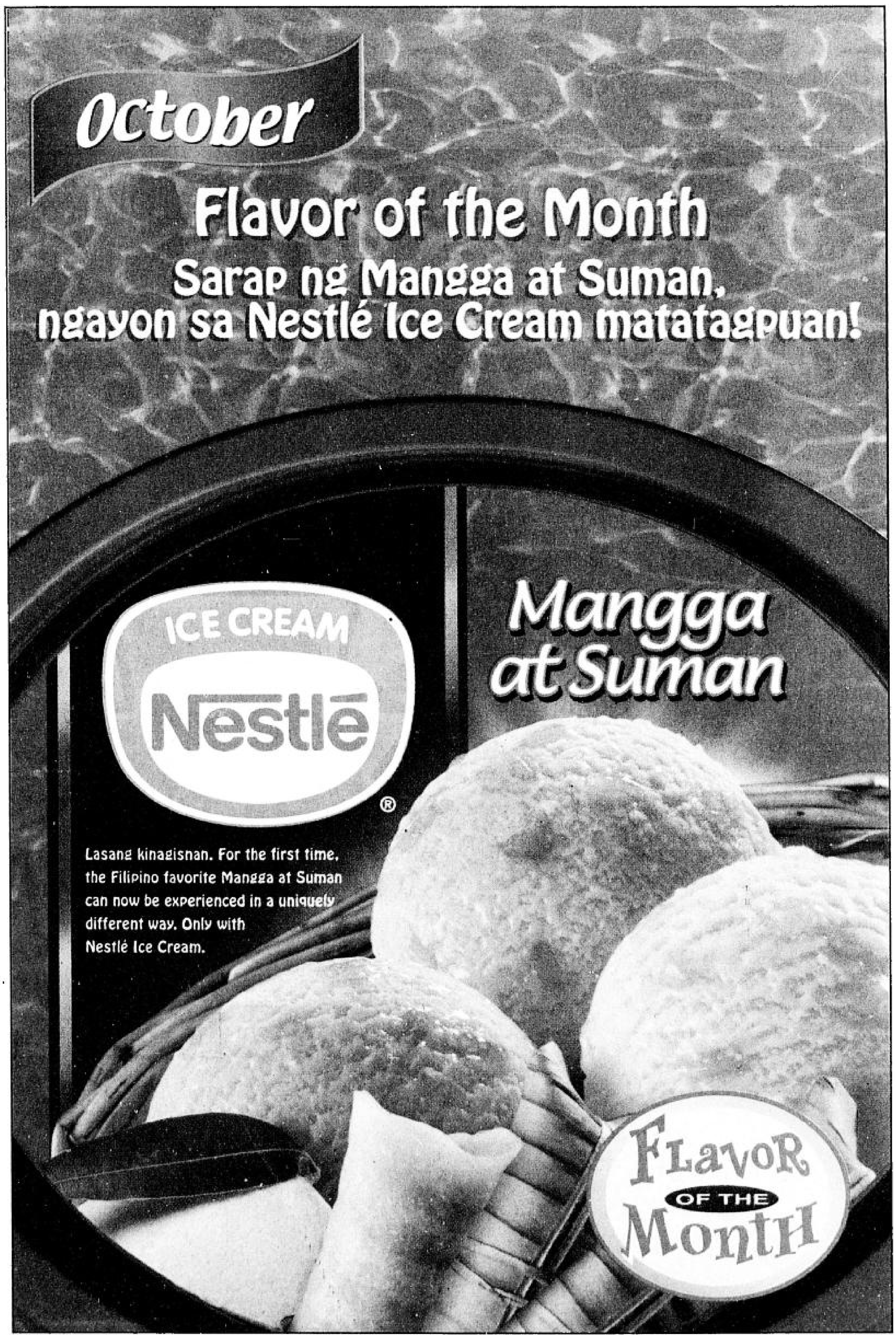
Tracy is an avid believer in controlling one's own destiny, daily goal planning, hard work and perseverance. One of his favorite sayings is, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing poorly at first!"

He has had successful careers in sales and marketing, investments, real estate development and syndication, importation, distribution and management consulting. Tracy has conducted high-level consulting assignments with several billion dollar-plus corporations in strategic planning and organization development.

He is the best-selling author of "The 21 Success Secrets of Self-Made Millionaires," "Get Paid More and Promoted Faster," "Focal Point," and "Eat That Frog!". His books are available at National Book Store.



SHEAFFER pens now come with free Hallmark cards. Buy any of Sheaffer's premium quality writing pens such as Sentinel, Nononesense Jellies, Award and Delta Grip, and be treated to two free Hallmark Christmas Cards and two free local postage stamps worth P5 each. Holiday promo until December 31 at selected Shoemart and National Book Store outlets.


October
Flavor of the Month
Sarap ng Mangga at Suman,
ngayon sa Nestlé Ice Cream matatagpuan!
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Lasang kinagisnan. For the first time, the Filipino favorite Mangga at Suman can now be experienced in a uniquely different way. Only with Nestlé Ice Cream.
FLAVOR OF THE MONTH

10 fellows named to UP writing workshop in the South

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing (ICW: Surian sa Malikhaing Pagsulat) has selected 10 fellows to attend the 41st UP National Writers Workshop to be held at the UP in the Visayas until Oct. 26.

Theme of the workshop is "Tingog Pag-uswag" (Voice of Progress), in line with UP ICW's aim to stimulate writers, especially in the Visayas and Mindanao, to create and contribute to national cultural development.

Dr. Leoncio P. Deriada, UP ICW regional associate and one of the Metrobank Outstanding Teachers this year, is workshop director.

The fellows are Danessa B. Alinsug (poetry, Sugbuanon), Robert S. Bagalay (poetry, Filipino), Cecille Laverne L. de la Cruz (poetry, English), Rhoan G. Lucero (poetry, Waray), Jean Lee Patindol-Manayon (fiction, English), Generoso G. Opulencia (poetry, Kiniray-a), Voltaire Q. Oyzon (poetry, Waray), Alberto B. Purzuelo, Jr. (fiction, English), Ma. Cecinia V. Ragay (poetry, Waray) and Roger B. Rueda (poetry, Hiligaynon Filipino).

The workshop teaching staff is composed of, aside from Deriada, ICW director Virgilio S. Almario, associate for poetry Gemino H. Abad, CAL associate dean Rosario C. Lucero, and Merlie M. Alunan, regional associate for UP Tacloban.

Fellows should contact the ICW at 922-1830 or 920-5301 local 7974, or workshop coordinator Migs Villanueva at (0917) 897-1124 and migs-v@I_manila. com.ph. Look for Juli Ramirez, UP Miag-ao, at (033) 513-7011 or (0918) 934-0212 for the travel itinerary.

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How do I find God? Let me count the ways

A book of personal testimonies on the search for God shows there is no one map

"How Can I Find God? The Famous and Not-So-Famous Consider the Quintessential Question"
Edited by James Martin, SJ
Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.
2002, 204 pages

By Eldric Paul Peredo
Contributor

REVIEW

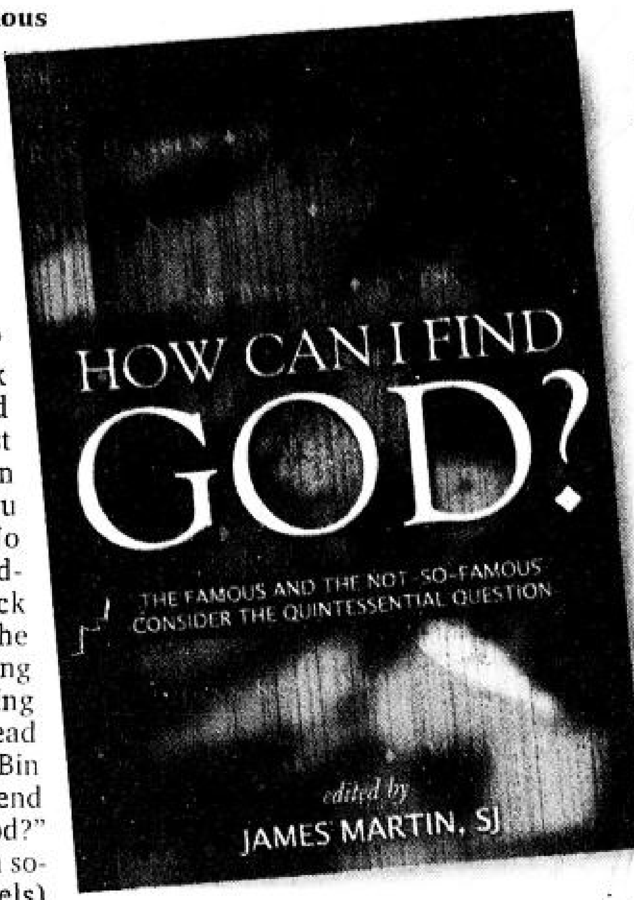
READ any good book lately? Standing before a book store or library shelf, and given the choice between the latest Stephen King novel and a book on finding God, which would you choose? No contest. I'd admittedly pick the former, too. How about when the choice is between a book discussing world terrorism and one on finding God? I'd bet you'd also want to read about what the US plans to do with Bin Laden or Saddam, rather than spend time on one like "How Can I Find God?" We are so mired in and wired with social issues (and best-selling novels) these days that to waste time on "spiritual" books is comparable to committing mortal sin.

However, the persistence of books with religious themes, incessantly wedging themselves between various publications, for example those that tell us the secret ways to success, should be a matter of interest. To find literature on God in a world of ever-growing secularism is odd. And that is precisely the reason that these types of books are bought—we would like to find out why they are there and what difference they have from previous collections of homilies.

Indeed, what makes "How Can I Find God?" stand out from previous books on the same theme?

Variety

The first thing, as the subtitle suggests, is that it is a compilation of the answers given by a considerable variety of respondents, from a former US Secretary of the Treasury to a survivor of the Holocaust, a woman priest, and even children, as in the case of the seventh graders of the St. Thomas School in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The prospective reader then should expect the answers to be as varied and as many as there are respondents.


HOW CAN I FIND GOD?
THE FAMOUS AND THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS CONSIDER THE QUINTESSENTIAL QUESTION
edited by
JAMES MARTIN, SJ

And the responses are really varied, which perhaps set this book apart. They show that there is not one true experience of the divine, but many, and you might even think of the distance between two perspectives as uncanny, even absurd.

How to find God? Bro. Benet Tvedten, O.S.B., suggests talking to a reformed alcoholic. Astronomer Clifford Stoll admonishes us to just look at the heavens, not just as mere object of physics, but with sincere wonder and awe, at how such conditions of life as we have could have come together, one possibility out of countless many. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Eliezer Weisel, as do a number of others, does not tell us how, but where—in our fellow man.

As I browse through the answers, I discover that the question evolves throughout the length of the book. For sure, the diverse answers do not provide a detailed map of where to find God, or a step-by-step process on how to find Him. Rather, they present different experiences of the Divine. The ordinary stories tell more of how their tellers have God in their lives than how they found him. The question then, in the end, becomes, "How have I realized that God is with me?"

We might wonder why the respondents in this book bother to answer the question at all. Perhaps it is in keeping with our human nature, which, given the power of reason, continuously and stubbornly makes us look for meaning. There are those who, looking at the world, have ended the search in vain.

The answers you find in the book attest that the world can still be given another interpretation. By trusting in the world despite its tendency not to inspire trust, the respondents say they have opened themselves up to meaning, one that is in God. Thus Rev. Avery Dulles, SJ, says that to find God, "in the last analysis, is to be found by Him."

An easy read, "How Can I Find God?" is interesting in its own right. Searchers out there who have been previously given bum steers in their quest might even pick up a helpful idea or two.

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Promo Period: October 15, 2002 to January 15, 2003

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Prizes per zone:
1st monthly draw:
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Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets
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3rd monthly draw:
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Promo Mechanics:
- Open to anyone who purchase Shellane LPG whether for a refill, a cylinder purchase, cylinder swap or Shellane stove promo purchase.
- Purchase can be from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or through Shellane Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery.

Raffle ticket allocation is as follows:
Every purchase of 11 kg. refill - 1 raffle coupon
Every cylinder swap - 1 raffle coupon
Every purchase of 11 kg. cylinder w/ refill - 2 raffle coupons
Every purchase of stove promo package - 4 raffle coupons

- Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Tel. #, Name and Address of Shellane Retail Outlet and Signature.
- Drop raffle coupon(s) in drop boxes located at all authorized Shellane distributor showrooms and retail outlets.
- A winner can win only once per draw. All non-winning coupons per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draws.
- The Shellane retail outlet indicated on the winning coupon will receive the same prize as the end user. If in case the source of purchase is a Shellane distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery, another ticket will be drawn until a winning retailer is determined. This extra draw will be done after all the end user prizes have been awarded; the end user owner of the original ticket drawn stays on as a prize winner.
- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations:

Northeast Luzon	PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon	PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon	PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro	PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro	PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro	PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog	PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol	PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona,CamarinesSur
Cebu/Bohol	PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas	PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte	PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao	PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao	PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Calilpan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
- To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID.
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
- All employees of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, all Shellane distributors, the advertising agency including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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LIFESTYLE

The women of Tres Roman and Jef Samonte

By Oscar V. Campomanes

CONFRONTED with the new works of the ever-surprising artist Tres Roman and the prodigious young painter and printmaker Jef Samonte, I find myself confronted with questions of allusiveness and artistic/auctorial intention.

With Roman's and Samonte's images of femalehood, allusiveness can authorize surprising exegetical turns.

One might begin with the title of this two-man exhibition, "Sense and Sensitivity," and its patent literary allusion to and revision of the famous title from the canon of woman's novels written during the Age of Victoria. To anyone familiar with the certain movements of the woman's novel of this period—from those of Jane Austen to those of George Eliot—toward a comprehensive female realism, the celebration and exploration of everyday lives and values of women in the contexts of family and society in broad but often fine-grained verbal strokes, one might be struck by the deliberate revision of female self-representation composed with such delicate humor by Roman and with erudite sympathy by Samonte.

In counterpoint to representational art, genre painting, or the canons of realism, which—if both artists explored them as modality and strategy in their oil and oil-acrylic paintings of women apprehended in various poses/pauses and moods/modes—could have made the allusion to the woman's novel of the Victorian period ironically "sensible," Samonte and Roman playfully and intelligently revise and render enigmatic, even as they refer to the question of women's self-representation and gendered subject-positionings in their complex visual studies of womanhood.

It is important in this case that sensibility in the woman's novel becomes sensitivity in these paintings by two male artists. The relationship of allusiveness here is not so much oriented toward sense itself, but toward a situated kind of sense-making—that is, the intriguing possibility of male pictorial delineation and representation of femininity that endows their female subjects not so much with subjectivity (which would be an arrogant, if sexist, move) as with barely sensible (yet probable) subject-positionings.

In this, both painters actively desire and court self-implication. For one might ask: Whose sense? Whose sensitivity?

It is understating it much to say that the diverging concepts of female representation with which both artists set out to develop these highly contrasting but oddly complementing paintings of female figures are fraught with many risks and pitfalls.

Male idiom

Roman, for example, teeters between offering us a distinctive visual idiom of female figuration and confronting charges of insensitivity from the most sensitive and politically correct among us, if this same idiom is read as unabashed caricature.

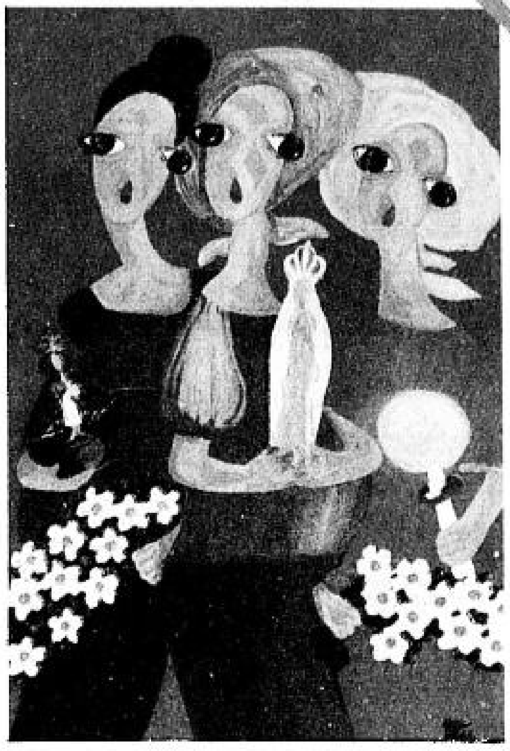
Taking a unique disfigurative flourish, Roman endows all his female figures in these oil paintings with fish eyes, with the difference that their eyes uniformly bulge and protrude outward as Roman sets them toward the opposing edges of the women's faces, by their temples.

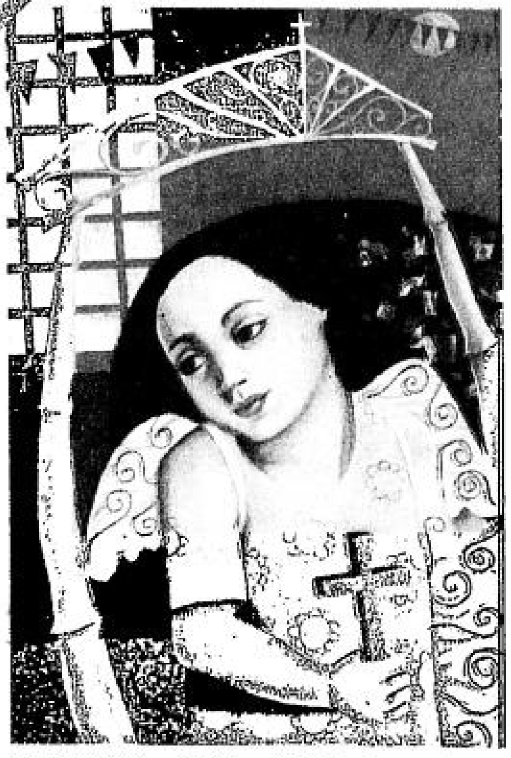
This figurative signature is what calls singular attention to the countenance of the women and their almost expressionless faces, as their noses are simply suggested in shadowed outline and their lips are reduced to cherry-red blots, hinting of that playful aspect that is a cross between an obstinately tight lip and a slightly surly pout.

With long, tapering necks and bodies oddly bloated or made misshapen by fertility and pregnancy (it does not matter that all of them

THE WOMEN/ p.E2

Two male artists tackle women in works pregnant with figural allusiveness


"PANATA," 38" x 26", by Roman


"EASTER Play," 30" x 20", by Samonte

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November 9, Saturday 4PM
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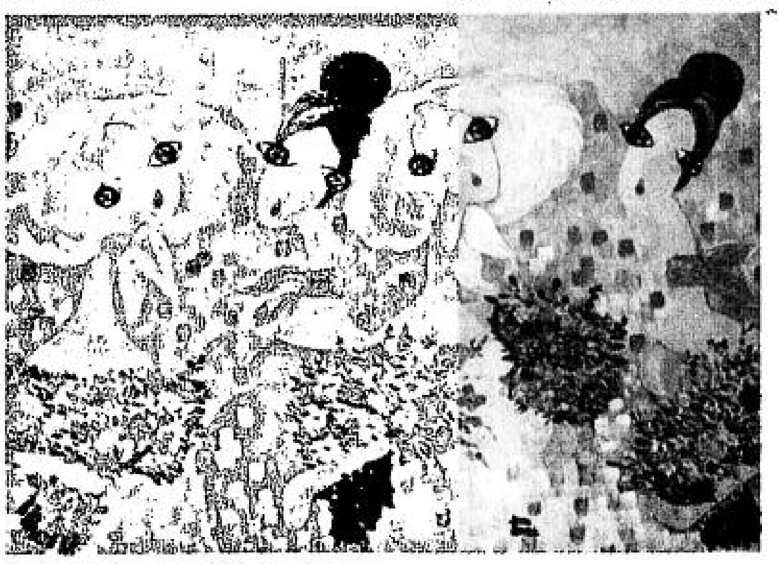
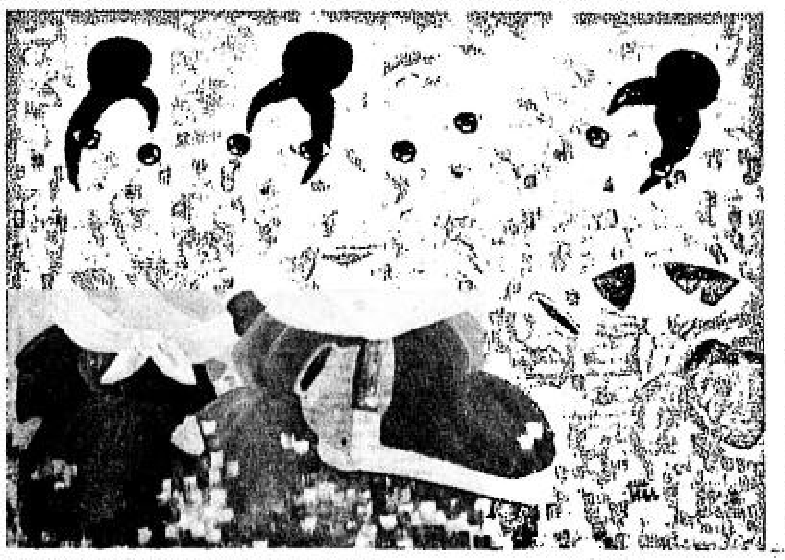
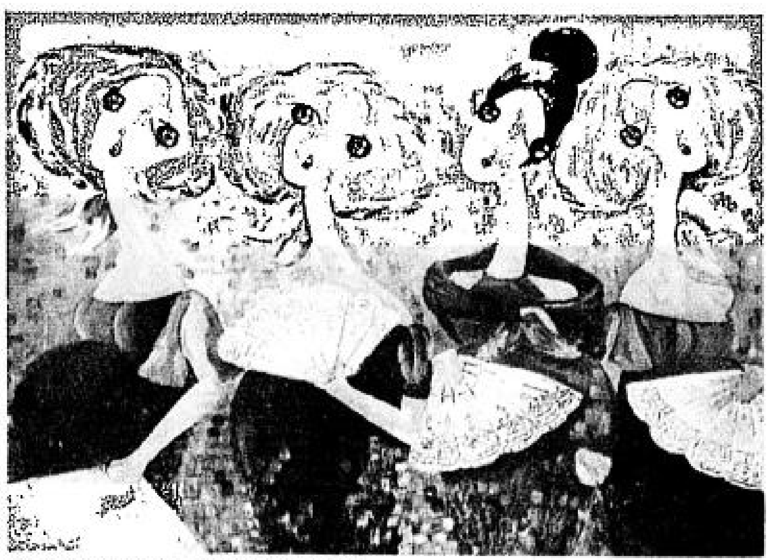
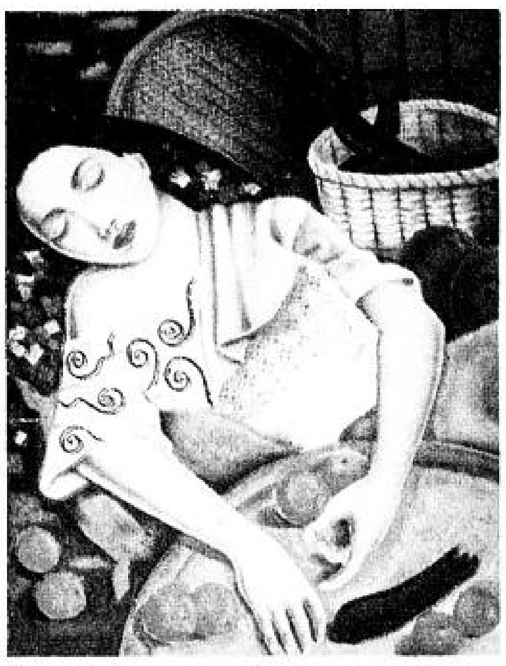
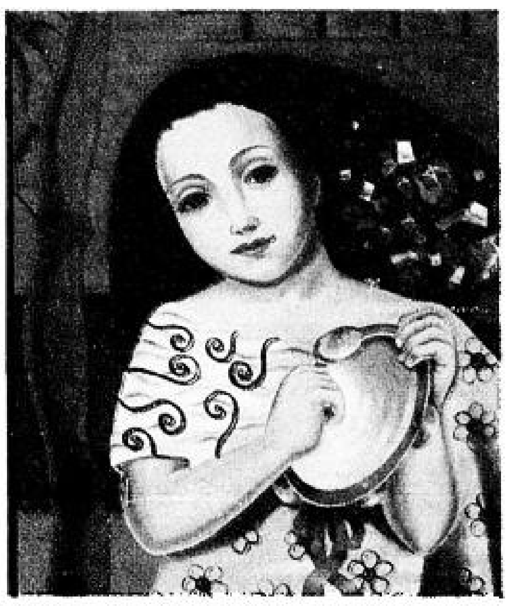

"EARTH," 30" x 40", by Roman


"WATER," 30" x 40", by Roman


"WIND," 30" x 40", by Roman

The women of Tres Roman and Jef Samonte


"AUBERGINITY," 30" x 20", by Samonte


"SONG of Gideon," 30" x 20", by Samonte

From page E1

seem middle-aged or even menopausal), Roman's women are all figured in coloring-book fashion, seeming receptacles of the painter's now-vaunted fascination with, and deft/precise handling of, color contrasts and chromatic combinations.

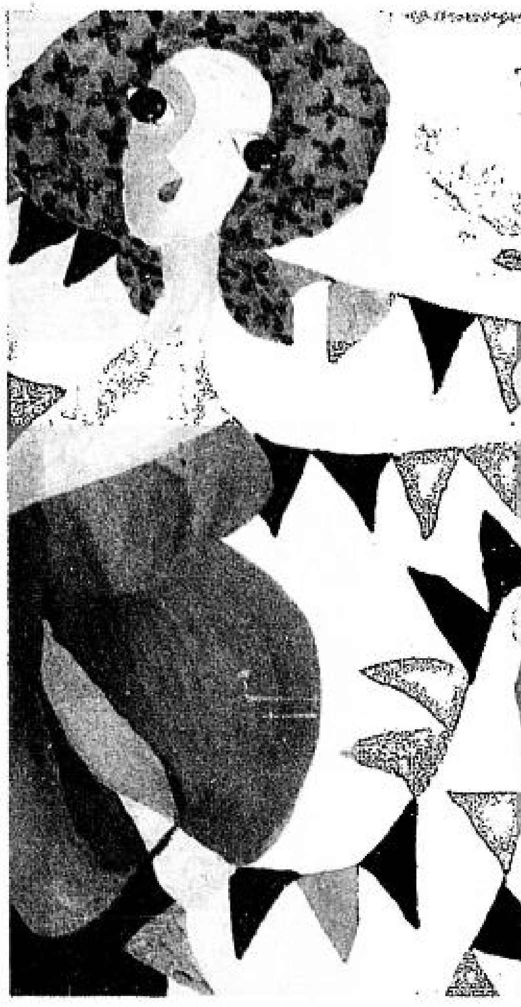
Roman's women are also serially fashioned out of a fundamental incongruity as they appear both folksy and urban, most pronounced in "Pahiyas," "Biyaya" and "Bisperas" (but with perhaps the exception of the "Dynamic Duo" and the fan-wielding women of "Wind").

Coming to us in ones, twos, threes and fours—reflecting Roman's now-known passion for the algebraic and geometric—these women exhibit little difference between and among them, except obviously in their costumery and "hairdos," and their various accoutrements: whether these be of flower bouquets, jars, buntings, jewelry and rosary, baskets, festal offerings, or religious icons/votive candles.

With the deceptive clarity common to these renditions of Woman (social differences among them are effectively blurred although liminally indicated in two or three of the paintings)—a clarity made almost demotic or reductive by the depthlessness to the women's facial expressions—Roman's women seem only to invite derision from or induce amusement and lighthearted humor in the viewer/beholder, as if they were all self-comic or purposely ridiculous: an effect or aspect probably far from the intent of the artist/auctor.

But this is where figural allusiveness saves the day for Roman, given his clear recourse to the pun or wordplay.

In "Panubigan" and "Tabuan"—with the titles bursting with verbal intimations of socially sanctioned forms of male misogyny and exploitativeness toward women—and in the stereotypical association of the female principle with the elements in "Water," "Earth" and "Wind," for example, Roman creates startling visual puns, i.e. almost homophonic interplays between the visual and the literary title, which refresh and recharge with such delicate irony. How Roman adroitly accomplishes this is impossible to discern without acknowledging the structural knot between title and image in these paintings.


"FERTILE Fiesta," 32" x 24", by Roman

Roman gives us instantaneous visual-verbal equations between sex-gender role stereotypes ascribed to or inscribed upon women's bodies and their visual analogues in these works: with women variously as (child-bearing) vessel/womb and source of life (the elements)—stereotypes made all the more deadly proximate by their embodiment in the two water-jar and child-bearing women in "Kabuwanan" and "Sinapupunan," with the moon (colored black, dimmed and damned), mythological symbol of femininity, located to the left and right of both!

To my mind, Roman's visual puns then are not here given as reiterations of sex-gender role-stereotyping (as for example in that trite and dreadful axiom "biology is destiny"), but as critical commentary, laced with delicate humor.

Mythological

Samonte's female figures are simultaneously mythological and indigenous in cast (see for example "Alone with Luna," "Song of Gideon," "Untitled" and "Three Women and a Story"), grafting one characteristic to the other with a seamlessness that makes his imagined women recognizable on the register of the real even as the resulting images must seem only apparitional to the untrained eye.

Such is the prodigiousness of this 23-year-old artist who, at such a tender age, already demonstrates a capacious sensitivity to span the range of representational possibilities available to the male artist, situated by difference from his subjects and, thus, limited otherwise by that situatedness as a (young) man.

Samonte gives us full-bodied, hauntingly beautiful, evidently tender and loving, self-bonded and seemingly unaffected women, at peace with and within themselves and with each other, in spite of the blatant and irremovable incursions of the carceral that form the background of nearly all the works. (The trellised or capiz-shell paneled windows that frame and imprison them within the domestic space of the household—nearly all these women are literally homebound, the shackles of "tradition" need not be over-signified

THE WOMEN/ p.E3

Postures of risk and bravura

From page E4

has a niche and two arched windows with baluster shutters. Seen through one window are a red-orange umbrella and half of a man's face with a green hat, while through the other is the profile of a man in brown suit, green hat, yellow collar, red-orange tie. A woman in a *kimona*, sitting in a high chair with her naked feet hanging, is juggling two red balls.

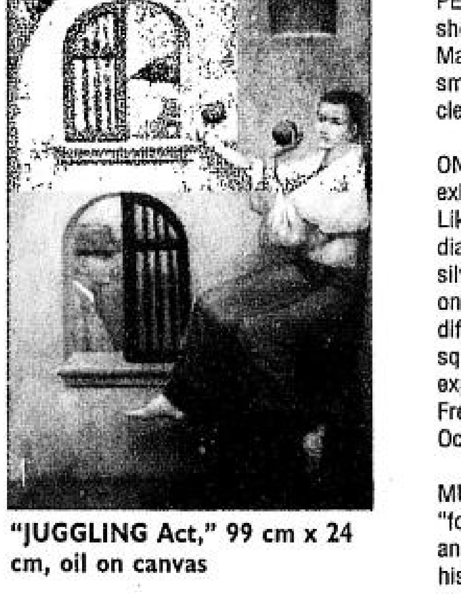
"Camouflage," in blue, ivory and gold, shows a pinkish man in a yellowish mask, white tank top and khaki trousers, with a black umbrella and shoulder bag, daintily holding an olive-green pencil while standing on a round stool by a guardrail of a building's roof deck. A woman in yellow-orange gown crouches on a gleaming maroon table. A giant stone cube with white wings swoops down across a blue sky.

"Balancing Act" is dominated by brown and green, with a brown wall and a green stone house seen through an arched portal at the center. A heavily swaddled woman sits clasping her knees on a giant weighing scale. An unshod man in ochre suit and red tie perches on a pile of two giant dice on the ledge. A partly hidden man in white briefs stands on one foot on a stool outside, as if balancing himself before a plunge. Everyone is on the edge yet perfect symmetry reigns—and that's where the tension lies.

Mystery figures

The eponymous piece, "Acts," in blue, brown, gray and green, is the largest in the exhibit. The canvas is divided into three sections in reddish-brown, olive-green and slate. Niches, arches, cracks and dents on walls form the outline of a giant cow with teats.

Against this mysterious backdrop are four mystery figures: a swaddled woman sitting on a carved coffee table, holding a white ovoid; a blue-suited man part of whose body is cut out on the wall, showing the sky outside with a medieval helmet floating in midair; a naked man with green pallor and fencing mask, looking like a statuary; and a half-naked man in maroon blindfold and trousers, holding up a violet umbrella against the sky.


"JUGGLING Act," 99 cm x 24 cm, oil on canvas

Whereas in his earlier works the figures were in static poses, now Santos is starting to explore body movements and gestures. He says this resulted from his interaction with choreographers and collaboration on ballet productions, for which he designed the sets. That's why the figure composition of the paintings is stagy, and the setting appears like a set design (stage props included).

Santos admits his deep admiration for Magritte, and that he was inspired to create these pieces after seeing a performance of the Cirque de Soleil. Thus the surreal imagery and personal symbolism, and the figures seem like circus people, jugglers and acrobats in various postures of risk and bravura.

Jimenez at West, Sanchez at Avellana, Alcazaren at Magnet, Aquilizan at Lopez

VISUAL ARTS

PETE JIMENEZ holds his second one-man show at the West Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong. This time, Jimenez makes smaller pieces, but the craftsmanship is just as clever. Call 634-1284.

ONGOING at the Avellana Art Gallery is an exhibit of the recent works of Rosario Sanchez. Like torn pages from a diary, square gold and silver leaves are collaged on canvas to relate different stories of life. Sanchez utilizes the square as units to represent the moments of experience. Avellana Art Gallery is at 220 Fresno Rd., Pasay City. The exhibit runs until Oct. 31. Call 522-9793/94, 1-8 p.m.

MULTIMEDIA artist Juan Alcazaren creates "fortunate arrangements" of found materials and finds new life for an old large-scale work in his new show, "Free Space," at Mag:net+ at The Loop, Eugenio J. Lopez Center, ABS-CBN compound, QC. The show runs from Oct. 26 ro Nov. 15. Call 410-0995.

ALFREDO JUAN AQUILIZAN will hold a sketching workshop for 12- to 16-year-olds on Oct. 26 at the Lopez Museum as part of "Zero-In: Private Art, Public Lives," an exhibit-lecture series of the Lopez-Ayala-Ateneo museums. Contact Fanny, tel. 449-2355. Also on Oct. 26, playwright and historian Paul Dumol will lecture on "Assimilation and Independence."

LANI MAESTRO opens an exhibit at Green Papaya Art Projects on Oct. 24, 6 p.m., breaking a nearly 15-year absence from the local art circuit. A practitioner of the minimalist conceptual art, the exhibit explores the possibilities of language outside conventional knowledge. Green Papaya is at 124a Maginhawa St., Teachers Village East, Diliman, QC. Call 927-3187.

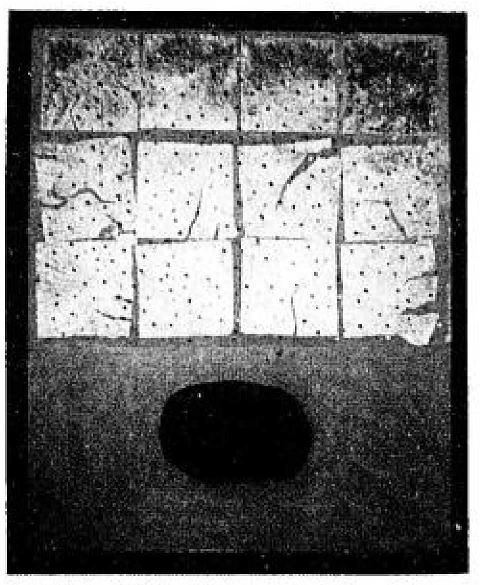
GERMAN graphic designer Hans Bacher is all set to take local art lovers on "A Graphic Art Adventure," Oct. 23 at the Inter-Continental Manila lobby Art Café Gallery. Bacher will be in Manila for the opening of his exhibit. Alberto Avellana is exhibit curator. Fil-Fram Enterprises, headed by Josefina Alonso, is facilitating the Inter-Continental show.

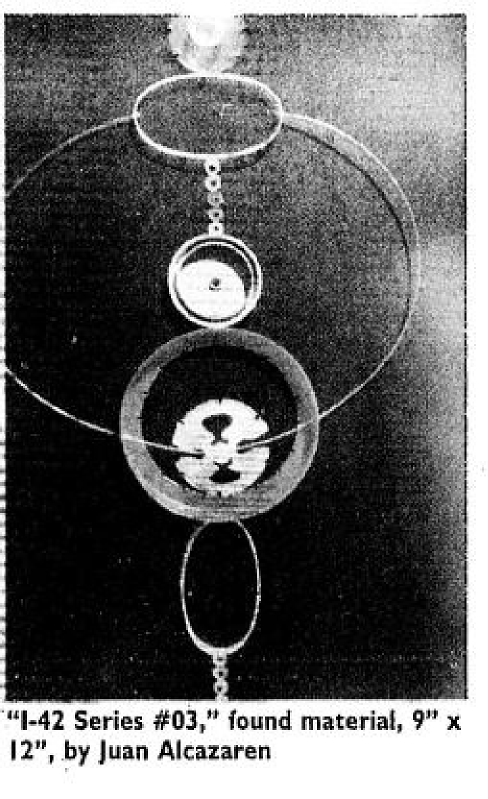
A SEMINAR on basic photography to be participated in by CWPPP (Commercial, Wedding, Portrait Photographers of the Philippines) members will be held Oct. 23-24 at the NED Photo-Video Gallery, AJ Building, 149 Ermin E. Garcia St., Cubao, QC. Willie Tan of Sanley Corp. (Solaris Films) will deliver brief remarks while Prankie Tsai of Visio Lights will demonstrate lighting diffusions with the least accessories. Call 912-8023/724-9118.

THE ALCOVE features a collection of 26 images depicting European architecture as seen by a Filipino photo enthusiast Jun Santos. "Parang Musika" at the Alcove, a pocket gallery dedicated to black-and-white photography at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City, runs until Nov. 6. Call 892-1801.

NEW YORK-based Filipino artist June Lacsamana Pascal holds an exhibit of bold works of ink on paper depicting "lifted fingerprints of metropolises" at the Ayala Museum. Dubbed "Big City Rubbings," the exhibit runs until Oct. 24.

RAMONCITO Doplon holds his 22nd one-man exhibit, "Maskara 2002," at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel in Bacolod City. The exhibit of new figurative abstract works, depicting local folks as masked revelers and sugarcane workers, shows Doplon's explorations of the nuances of *okir*, the Muslim motif for which he is famous.


"CELEBRATION of Life" by Rosario Sanchez, at the Avellana Art Gallery


"I-42 Series #03," found material, 9" x 12", by Juan Alcazaren

The women of Tres Roman and Jef Samonte

From page E2

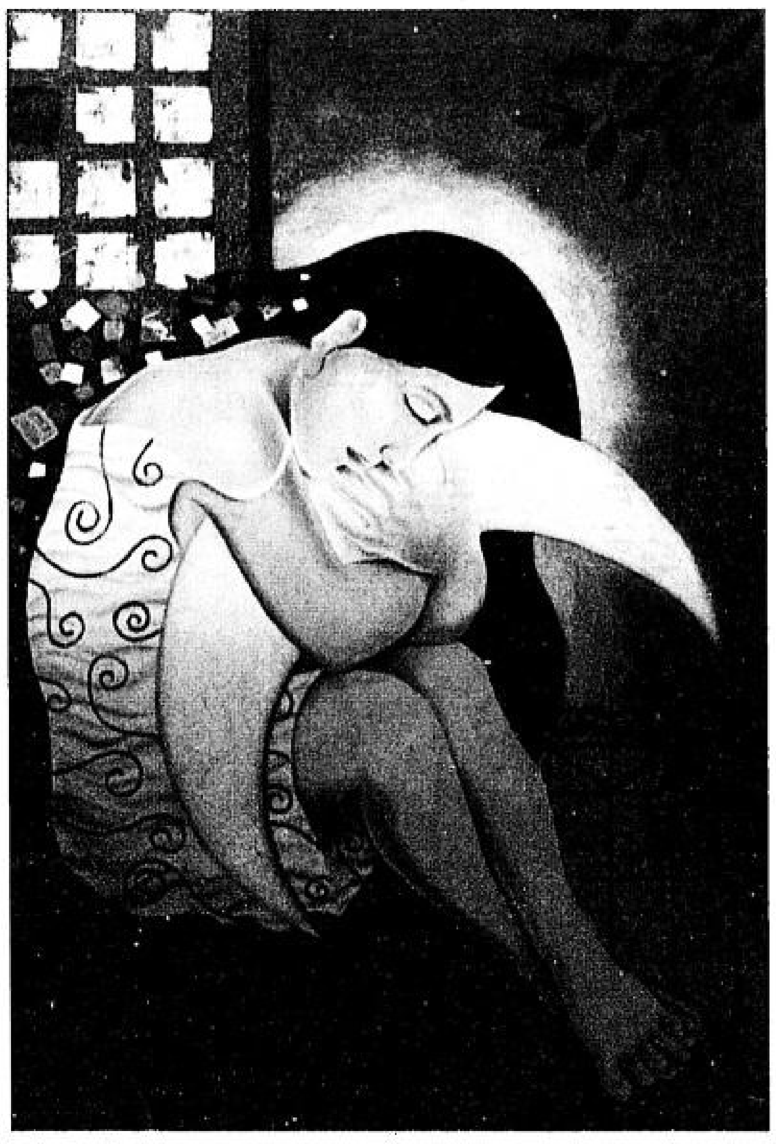
as in Roman's inscriptions of social-sexual stereotype onto the female form in his paintings!)

The heterogeneity of Samonte's apprehensions of the female form seems belied by the glowing and almost lunar yellow by which his women's skins are uniformly tinted, and the fulsome and spreading black tresses that he frames their classically beautiful faces with, including those geometric forms and curlicues that grace them by the hair ends (if not with which he practically clothes them, as with the female figures in "Bangkang Papel," "It is All Right," and "Waiting for Agamemnon"—the level of painstaking detail can only hint at the intense deliberation with which Samonte must have composed these elaborate figural "stitchings," as if painting itself can be a form of weaving, as if costumery can be, allegorically, artistic composition).

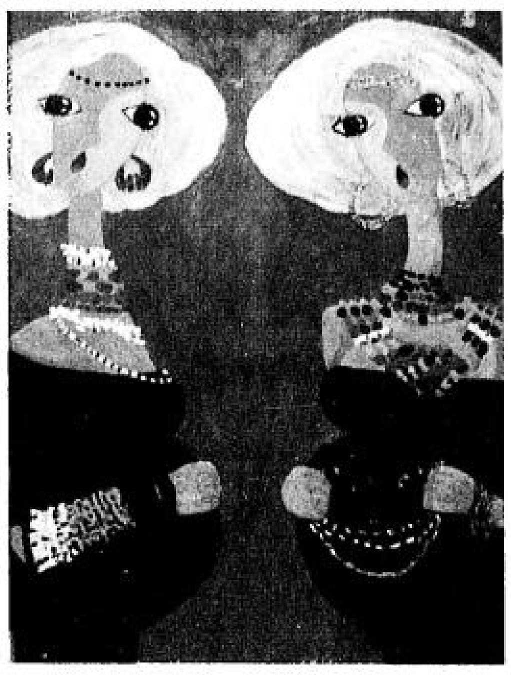
With Samonte, there is something of loving, what I consider "erudite sympathy" toward his—perhaps a willingness to risk charges of sentimentalization or idealization in his representations of feminine characteristics and subject-positions.

Even more, the heterogeneity of the feminine in Samonte's work encompasses the potentiality of women's agency (but not without any claim for "granting" it by the sensitive artist, which Samonte already ostensibly realizes can only be compensatory and an obverse form of male powermongering) as well as the variety of women's disfiguration or oppression, perhaps the stunting of their form/growth by social repressiveness.

In terms of the potentiality of agency/subjectivity, women in Samonte's renditions are, by turns, erotic and yet untouching (as in the cleverly punned "Aubergenity," where the native woman has her eyes closed in a fantasizing pose while her hands hover tentatively near or gently threaten to seize/grasp the aubergine/eggplant on her *bilao*; or in "Life, Still" and "Babae, Bata at Bilao," where the mothers tenderly attend to or let the infant suck on a breast with the succor or stoicism lovers display to their beloved, and not as mothers; or the uninhibited homosociality and homoeroticism of the female duo in "It's All Right"; and the woman who inverts her male lover as she becomes top and he bottom in "Mula Ulo Hanggang Paa").


"ALONE with Luna," 30" x 20", by Samonte

By contrast, the "women" of "Easter Play" and "Song of Gideon" come to us like overgrown little girls, emitting the look of womanly wisdom and yet suggesting in their countenance the innocence of girlhood, and this, while seeming to have been stunted, frozen in their development at that transitory point of early adolescence (as graphically and exactly figured, for example, in "Alone with Luna"). The woman in "Bangkang Papel" has the aspect of a matured woman who plays at being girl with her paperboat while striking us as somebody stopped in her growth: a midget.

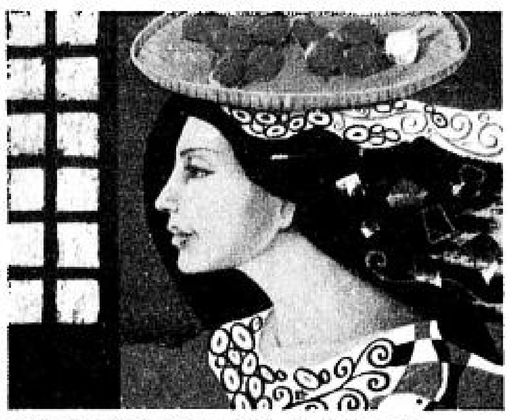

"PROLIFIC Pair," 32" x 24", by Roman

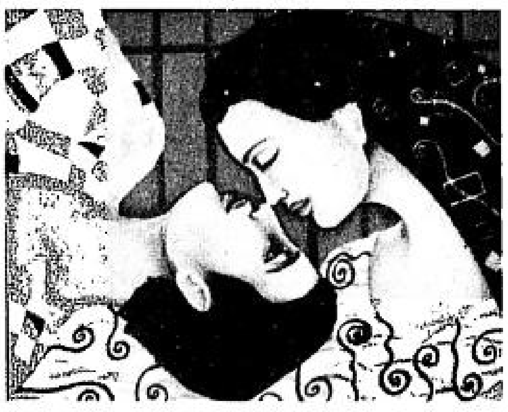
And yet through these all, Samonte's women spring out of a curious compound of regularity and heterogeneity, and the commonality to all of them lies in the recurrence of a "look" of self-possession, undaunted by the other's gaze and the carceral or enframement. In "Pakyaw," "Selda ni Selya," "Tanaw" and "Untitled," for instance, the women turn their half-cheek to us, pose in profile as if to avert and abort the orientation to which they must always perforce genuflect or look toward, otherwise. These are women who do not need glassy fish eyes that glare, only eyes—whether half-lidded, sad or reverie-laden, or even when turned to us do not see us because they see something else apposite—turned somewhere else, to each other or, when closed, to oneself.

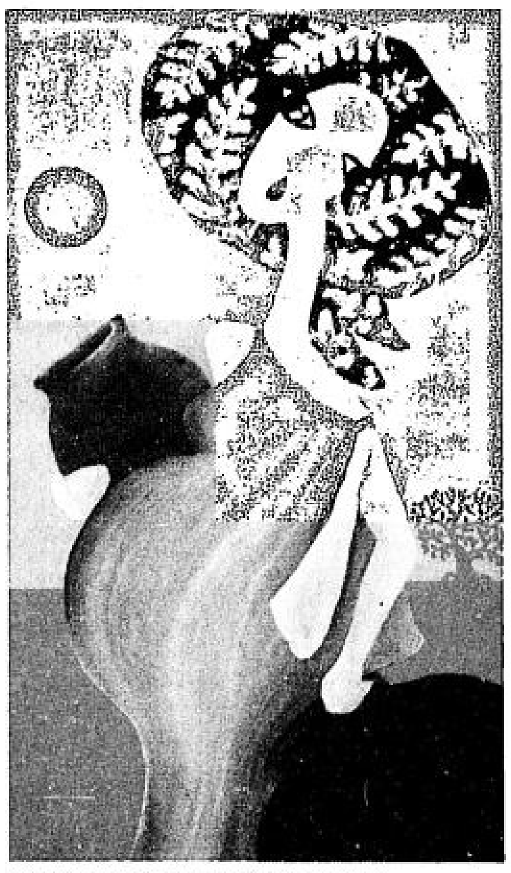
Beautiful mind, this Samonte; perhaps, male sensitivity can take a new turn if we only visualize the way he does, and labor hard at other ways of seeing and looking.

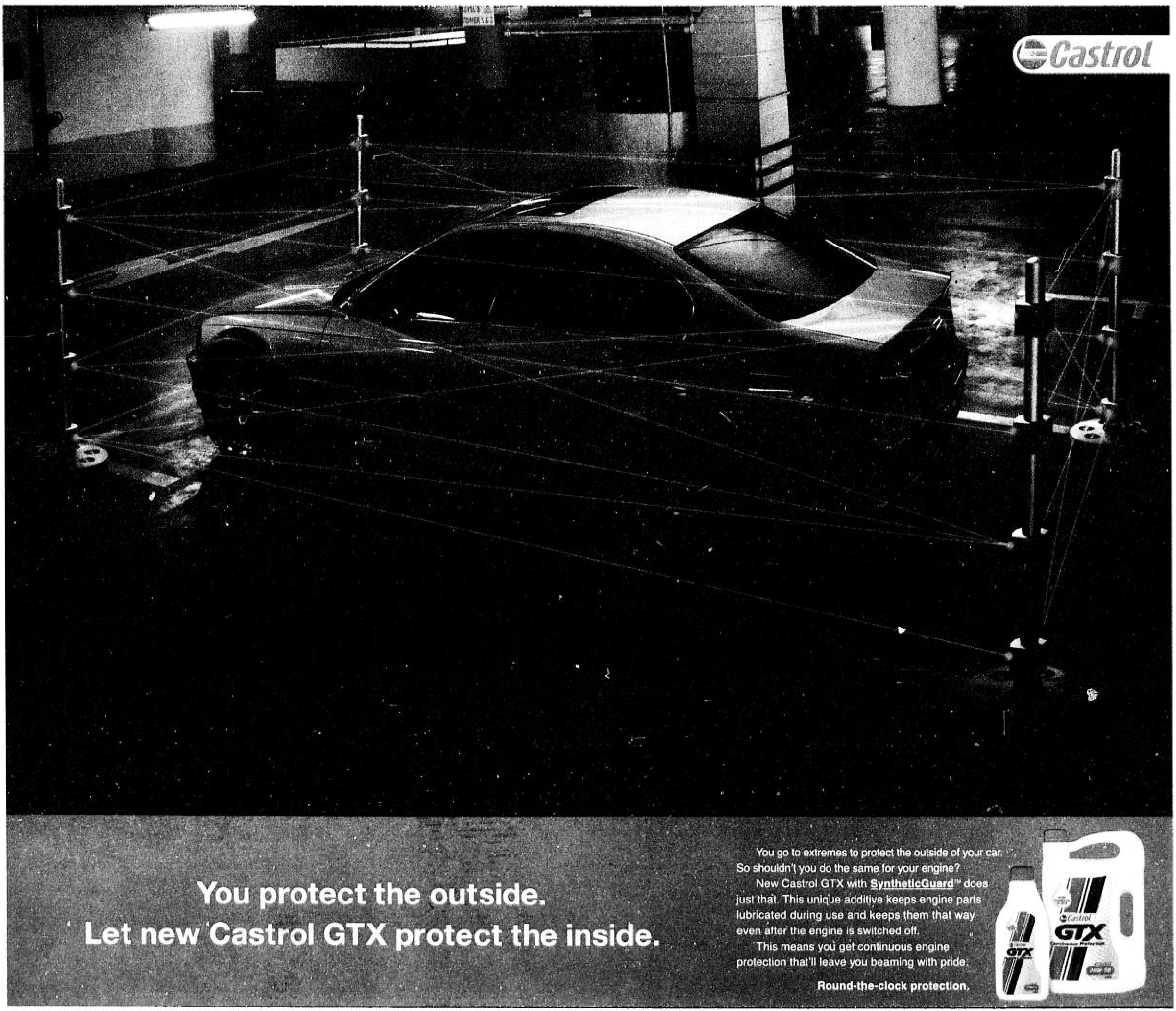
"Sense & Sensitivity," a joint exhibit by Tres Roman and Jef Samonte, opens on Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m., at the Art Conservatory (PJL Corporate Center, corner 1782 N. Garcia and Kalayaan Sts. [formerly Reposo Street and Kalayaan Avenue], Makati City). The exhibit runs until Nov. 15. Call 895-0753.

O.V. Campomanes teaches semiotics, critical theory, critical writing, post colonialism, cultural studies, American Studies and Philippine/US literatures at De la Salle University-Manila. He is editor of American Studies Asia.


"PAKYAW," 15" x 18", by Samonte


"MULA Ulo Hanggang Paa," 15" x 18", by Samonte


"TABUAN," 30 x 20", by Roman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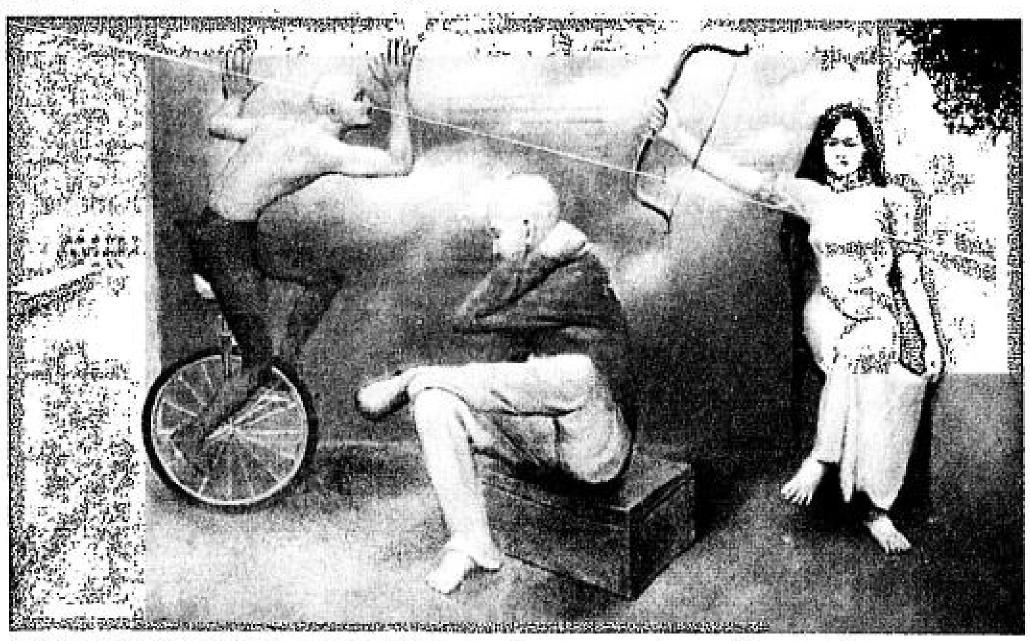
Postures of risk and bravura

By Constantino C. Tejero



"INDIRECT Acts," 66.75 cm x 106.75 cm, oil on canvas, by José Santos III

A SURREAL vision of bald-headed men and long-haired women trapped in mysterious rooms with glimpses of the sky, done in the styles of Dali and Magritte, is the exhibit of recent paintings of José Santos III.

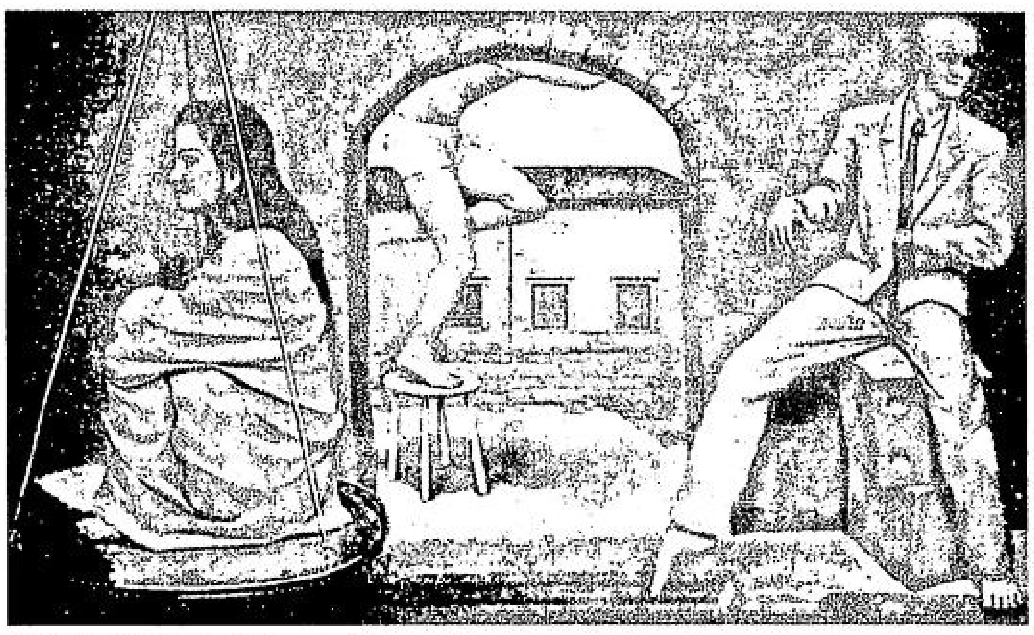
Titled "Acts," it runs until tomorrow in West Gallery at Artlane, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. It is a small but eye-grabbing show. This is the fifth solo exhibit of the 32-year-old artist.

A fine arts graduate from the University of the Philippines, Santos was one of the recipients of the 13 Artists Awards for 2000 from the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He teaches drawing and techniques in UP.

His latest show's title refers to the main sections or divisions of a theatrical performance such as a play, opera, ballet. It also refers to the deeds or gestures the human form executes during such a performance.

Santos says that the dance, particularly, "has suffused his canvases with the gift of movement, resulting in vivid, unrestrained and more colorful compositions."

Colorful the figure composition may be, but the color itself is muted. In fact, the five pieces of oil on canvas all appear monochromatic. The lines are severe, and the figures and architectural details seem to come from academic art. These look like 19th-century paintings given a twist by the surreal goings-on.



"BALANCING Act," 61 cm x 99 cm, oil on canvas

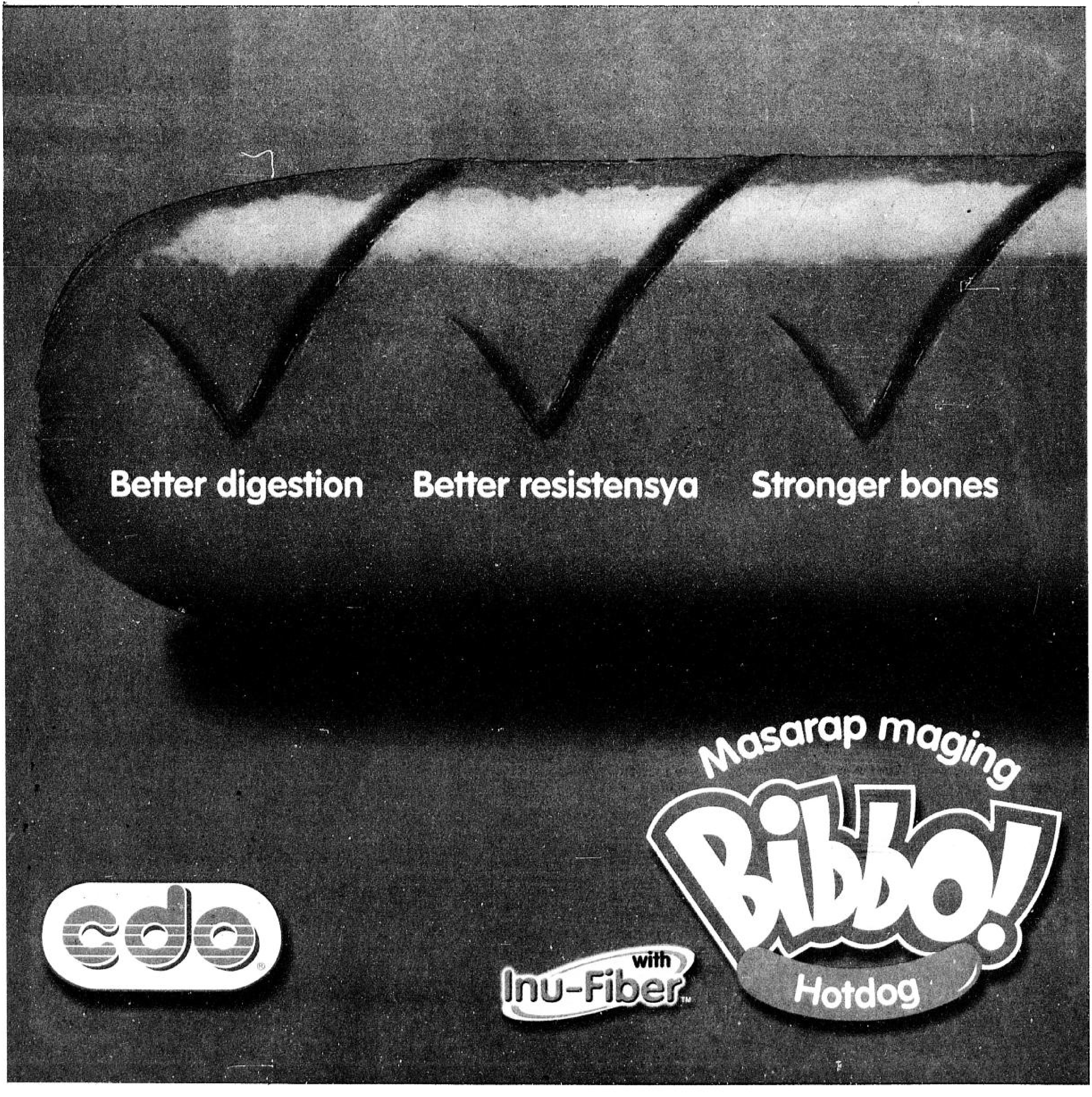
The visual narratives on the canvases—playful, sinister or tension-filled—are deeply personal, so the viewer is better off appreciating the pieces for their formal aspect.

Dominant hues

In "Improvisations," the dominant hues are brown and blue. A half-naked man in gray tights on a unicycle has his outstretched arms leaning on a blue wall or sky. Another man in blue long-sleeve shirt and ochre pants, one foot naked and the other in semi-transparent shoe, sits on a reddish-brown chest. A woman in ochre long dress, sitting in an antique chair in a corner, holds up a bow.

"Juggling Act," in brown and slate-green,

POSTURES/ p.E2



Gloria tells PEA board to resign, give way to new one

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- **Bomb explosion kills 2 cops in Thailand** WORLD /A11
- **Indonesia on alert for more attacks** WORLD /A11
- **Metro-wide curfew eyed** METRO /A23

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, October 22, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 316 P15 website: www.inq7.net

₱1-M bounty for bombers

Investigators have yet to make breakthrough in solving blasts

By TJ Burgonio, *in Manila,*
Julie S. Alipala
and Rolly San Juan
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A CONCERNED citizen has put up a P1-million reward for any information that will help solve Friday's bombing of a bus on Edsa that killed two people and injured 20 others, the Philippine National Police (PNP) announced yesterday.

The reward offer came as investigators struggled to find a breakthrough in solving a wave of deadly bombings that have hurt the economy and put much of the country on edge.

"This reward strengthens the call for every citizen to be a 'guardian of peace.' We will win the peace by closing ranks and keeping our eyes and ears open," Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PNP chief, said in a statement.

Ebdane did not identify who put up the reward.

The attack on the bus was one of five deadly bombings that have rocked the country this month, killing 21 people. Three of them took place in Zamboanga City and one in Kidapawan City.

In Zamboanga City, a 13-year-old boy provided police with a sketchy description of a suspect in the latest attack that killed a Marine corporal and injured 18 others near the Fort Pilar Shrine on Sunday night.

The boy told police that a young man in a black T-shirt and jeans parked a bicycle loaded with explosives near the front gate of the religious site.

"He was about 17 years old. He

P1-M/A18

A MARINE corporal was killed at the entrance of the Fort Pilar Shrine in Zamboanga City. At least 18 other people, including devotees, were wounded in Sunday's bomb explosion.

DENNIS SABANGAN

US starts own probe of latest bombings

By Alcuin Papa
and TJ Burgonio

AMERICAN security experts are in town to examine the bus bombed on Friday in Quezon City, even as a US intelligence official yesterday interrogated the chief aide of slain Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, who was arrested on the eve of the attack.

The US probers are looking into the possible connection between the bus bombing and Sunday's explosion at the Fort Pilar Shrine in Zamboanga City that killed a Filipino Marine guarding the place.

A highly placed source in the intelligence community told the INQUIRER that the US experts were not out to assist local law enforcers.

"Their investigation is only for their own internal use for the purpose of monitoring terrorist acts worldwide," the source said.

The inquiry, conducted by representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Regional Security Office, the Marine Corps and other American security units, started yesterday.

Some of those involved were part of the same team that conducted an investigation of the Oct. 2 blast in Barangay Malagutay in Zamboanga City, which claimed the life of an

US/A18

Abus kidnap Chinoy trader in Tawi-Tawi

By Martin Marfil
and Ed General
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A CHINESE-FILIPINO trader in Tawi-Tawi and one of his employees were kidnapped the other day, apparently by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

At least five unidentified men barged into the store of businessman Alvin Chua, 24, at about 4 p.m. on Sunday and dragged him and his helper at gunpoint into a motorboat in Bongao town in Tawi-Tawi, Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Lucero said.

Taking the victims with them, the gunmen then sped toward Barangay Tayungan, also in Bongao. Lucero said the suspects had not contacted the victims' relatives yet.

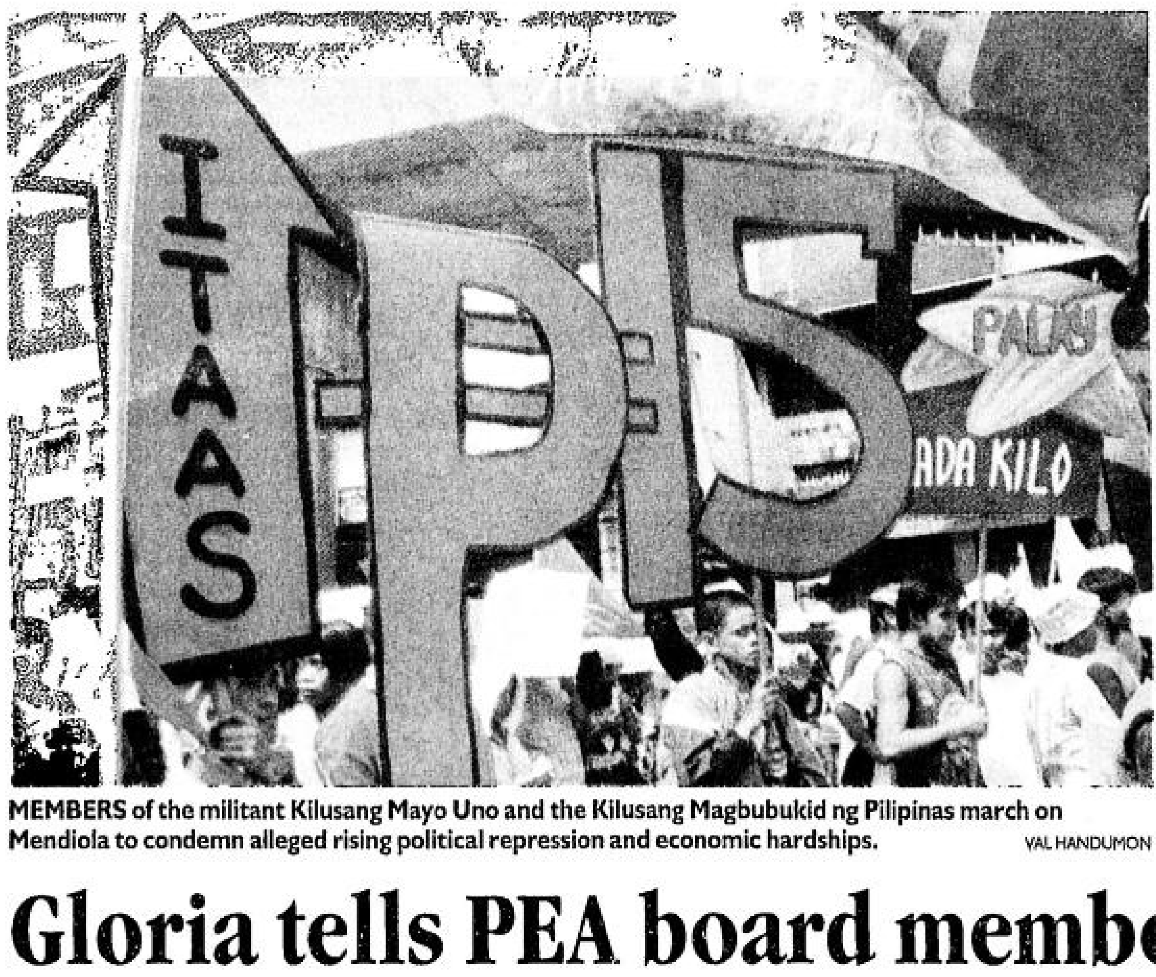
Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya said the bandits might have been behind the abductions, although he said there were no indications yet pointing to the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

But an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told defense reporters something else. "We have raw information (that it was the Abu Sayyaf) but we are still verifying it," he said.

Retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, the Armed Forces spokesperson, said the AFP was still waiting for an official report on the incident.

No group has yet claimed re-

ABUS/A19



MEMBERS of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas march on Mendiola to condemn alleged rising political repression and economic hardships.

VAL HANDUMON

Peso sinks deeper to 53.205:$1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO sank to a new 14-month low yesterday, while shares closed at their lowest in over 11 months, as jittery investors unloaded holdings following a series of bomb attacks that killed a total of 10 people and left scores wounded in the past four days.

The local currency hit a low of 53.47 to the dollar in morning trade from its previous close of 53.29. It rose just before the close of onshore trade to end at 53.205.

The level was the lowest since the unit hit 53.61 pesos to the dollar on Aug. 3, 2001.

Dealers said the peso's failure

PESO/A18

No karaoke nights for Japanese tourists

By Norman Bordadora
and Armand N. Nocum

THE FUN-LOVING Japanese will have to give up their precious karaoke nights and shopping binges in light of the bomb threats and actual bomb attacks.

The Japanese Embassy here has modified its travel advisory on the Philippines and enjoined Japanese nationals "to stay away from shopping malls, department stores, bars, restaurants and discos." It made particular mention of "crowded places" in Metro Manila and Zamboanga City as the areas to avoid.

Japanese tourists, both young and old, are the favorite patrons of karaoke nightclubs and "family KTV" joints.

But the so-called fun places are not the only ones feeling the heat.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has called for "heightened vigilance" in churches—an apparent reaction to the Sunday bombing of the Fort Pilar Shrine in Zamboanga, which

NO/A19

Gloria tells PEA board members to quit

By Carlito Pablo

MEMBERS of the board of the Public Estates Authority who approved the construction of the country's most expensive road and named it after President Macapagal-Arroyo's late father are leaving the agency for good.

The President said yesterday that she was appointing an "interim PEA board."

She decided to let go of the people she appointed to the PEA board in the face of perceptions that she was suffering from an image problem purportedly brought about by her inability to control persons close to her who are suspected of being corrupt.

The President was careful enough not to say that she was firing members of the PEA board. "If there are members of the regular board of directors who wish to submit their resignations, I shall be pleased to accept their resignation," the President said in a speech before the Philippine Nurses Association Inc. at the Manila Hotel.

The PEA board has figured in the most recent scandal to hit the Macapagal administration: the alleged P600-million overprice of the 5.1-km President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

The board is composed of Ernest Villareal, chair; Benjamin Cariño, general manager; and Rodolfo Tuazon, Angelito Villanueva, Martin Sanciego Jr., Joemari Gerochi and Sulficio Tagud Jr., directors. It was Tagud who blew the whistle on the alleged scam on Sept. 18. Days later he offered to go on leave, and Gerochi offered to resign.

Because of the alleged scandal, the President ordered the entire

GLORIA/A19

More Mr. Right candidates

By Stella O. Gonzales

THIS may sound incredible to the women out there who can't seem to find Mr. Right, but there are actually more men than women in the Philippines.

According to the National Statistics Office, the country's last census (2000) showed that of the total population then of 76.5 million, about 38.5 million (or 50.36 percent) were males and 38 million (or 49.64 percent) were females. This means that there were 101.43 men for every 100 women.

MORE/A19

MARAMI NGA... PERO MAY QUALITY BA?

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

National ID system gathers steam

By **Carla P. Gomez**, *PDI Visayas Bureau*, and **Rocky Nazareno**

THE IMPLEMENTATION of a national ID system got a big boost yesterday when one of those opposed to it had a change of heart.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., a staunch opponent of a national ID system, said yesterday he now believes there is a need for such an ID because of the present peace and order situation in the country.

"I suggested that the Social Security System already has a program and it's a matter of expanding it for us to have a national ID system," said Villar, who was at Bacolod City for its 64th Charter Day Anniversary on Saturday.

With the problem of terrorism right now, he said, a lot of people were changing their minds about a national ID system.

"I'm afraid that at this point there is a need for an ID system though there are some that believe it could be very costly and that it could lead to abuses," he said.

Effective

In a speech yesterday before the Philippine Nurses Association, Ms Macapagal said a national ID system would not only help ferret out terrorists but also "wrongdoers in government."

Speaking at the PNA anniversary, the President said that a national ID system is an "effective system" that will protect "those of good moral character."

She did not elaborate.

And in a bid to thwart possible human rights violations, administration Sen. Noli de Castro proposed that the chair of the Commission on Human Rights be included in the National Registration Coordinating Commission (NRCC) which will set up a national identification system.

In his proposal, De Castro said that including the CHR chair in the NRCC would be "amenable to human rights advocates" who have rejected the plan to institute a national ID system to curb terrorism.

"We tried to ensure that there will be no violation of one's privacy as we did not include in our proposal the biometrics system which has been judicially declared unconstitutional," De Castro said in a statement.

Biometrics

The biometrics system of identification, like retina scanning, has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court because it invades the privacy of individuals.

But under De Castro's proposal, the mere submission of a photograph or thumbprint would be sufficient to identify a person.

A national ID system is aimed at integrating the various IDs of the agencies of government by providing a single tamper-proof card that would serve as the official identification of the person to whom it was issued.

The national ID could also be used to transact business with both government and private entities, he said.

De Castro said the NRCC will be tasked "to administer the extent and scope of transactions the ID would cover.

The information contained in the national ID would be used "for identification purposes only," he said.

De Castro's proposal also underscored that there would be a "guaranty that failure of an individual to present the national ID upon request by proper authorities does not give rise to a presumption that the person is guilty of committing a crime."

"(Not having the ID) will also not deny him or her of the government and private services as long as he or she is qualified under law," De Castro said.

"This proposed national ID system would redound to the benefit of the public and will promote order and safety. We have to implement this as soon as possible, given the situation and inability of our security force to nail down criminals behind terrorist acts," De Castro said. *With Carlito Pablo*

Protesters assail 'state-sponsored poverty, terrorism'

By **Jerome Aning**

SOME 700 militants took to the streets yesterday, marching from the Don Chino Roces bridge near Malacañang to the United States Embassy to protest what they called "state-sponsored poverty and terrorism."

The protesters, representing labor, peasant, fisherfolk and urban poor sectors, were opposing proposed anti-terror measures that they said could threaten human rights and democracy and create restiveness that terrorists could exploit.

They burned a 12-foot mean-looking effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo toting an M-203 grenade launcher on board a United States Army tank.

The effigy was labeled: "A-1 militarist and warmongering puppet of the US."

"At this time, the most dangerous and life-threatening terrorist is none other than the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo government itself," said the Elmer Labog, the secretary general of the Kilusang Mamamayang Pilipino.

After a spate of bombings that were mostly blamed on Muslim extremists linked to the al-Qaida international terrorist network, the government and Congress began considering proposals, including giving the President emergency powers to fight terrorism, adopting a national ID system, and getting passing an anti-terrorism law.

Administration Rep. Raul Gonzalez filed a bill yesterday seeking to grant Ms Macapagal still unspecified emergency powers to deal with terrorism and any fallout from a possible US military strike on Iraq, although the President's aides have said she does not need any such extra powers.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said giving the President emergency powers could lead to the re-institution of martial law.

"While we recognize the problem of terrorism, we think it could not be solved by limiting rights and by repression. That would lead to discontent, and terrorists could exploit massive restiveness," said Bayan leader Renato Reyes.

Anakbayan claimed that right-wing militarists in power were trying to solve the two most pressing issues confronting the government—the growing discontent of the people because of the economic crisis and the military's bid to boost its share of the 2003 budget.

Military claims 4 rebels killed in Lanao Sur battle

PUALAS, Lanao del Sur—Heavy fighting between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas resumed yesterday in Sultan Gumander town here and in Maguindanao province.

Col. Ernesto Boac, commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based in Marawi City, said at least four rebels were confirmed killed as soldiers inched their way toward a rebel lair near Mt. Palao, some 45 kms from here, at about 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

There were no casualties reported on the military side. But Boac said the rebels have suffered heavily since the military relaunched its pre-emptive strike against local rebel commanders reportedly coddling Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

He said the bodies of the rebels slain in yesterday's encounter were all recovered but the military buried them immediately.

"We do not want to transgress on their beliefs," Boac said. Muslims must bury their dead within 24 hours.

In Maguindanao, a battle was still raging as of presstime between the military and the MILF.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the casualty figures on both sides were difficult to determine because of the intense firefight in Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak towns.

"We have not received any report on that yet," he said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact military officers authorized to speak about the encounter.

Kabalu denounced the military for allegedly initiating the firefight in both Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

"We could not find any reason why they wanted to fight with us," he said.

The government and the MILF have been engaged in peace negotiations and both sides have touted several accomplishments, including a ceasefire accord signed in Kuala Lumpur last year.

Kabalu said the MILF believes the fresh attacks may have something to do with the budget hearings on the defense and military budget now going on in Congress.

"It seems we are being used to justify a bigger budget for the military," he said. *Grace C. Albasin and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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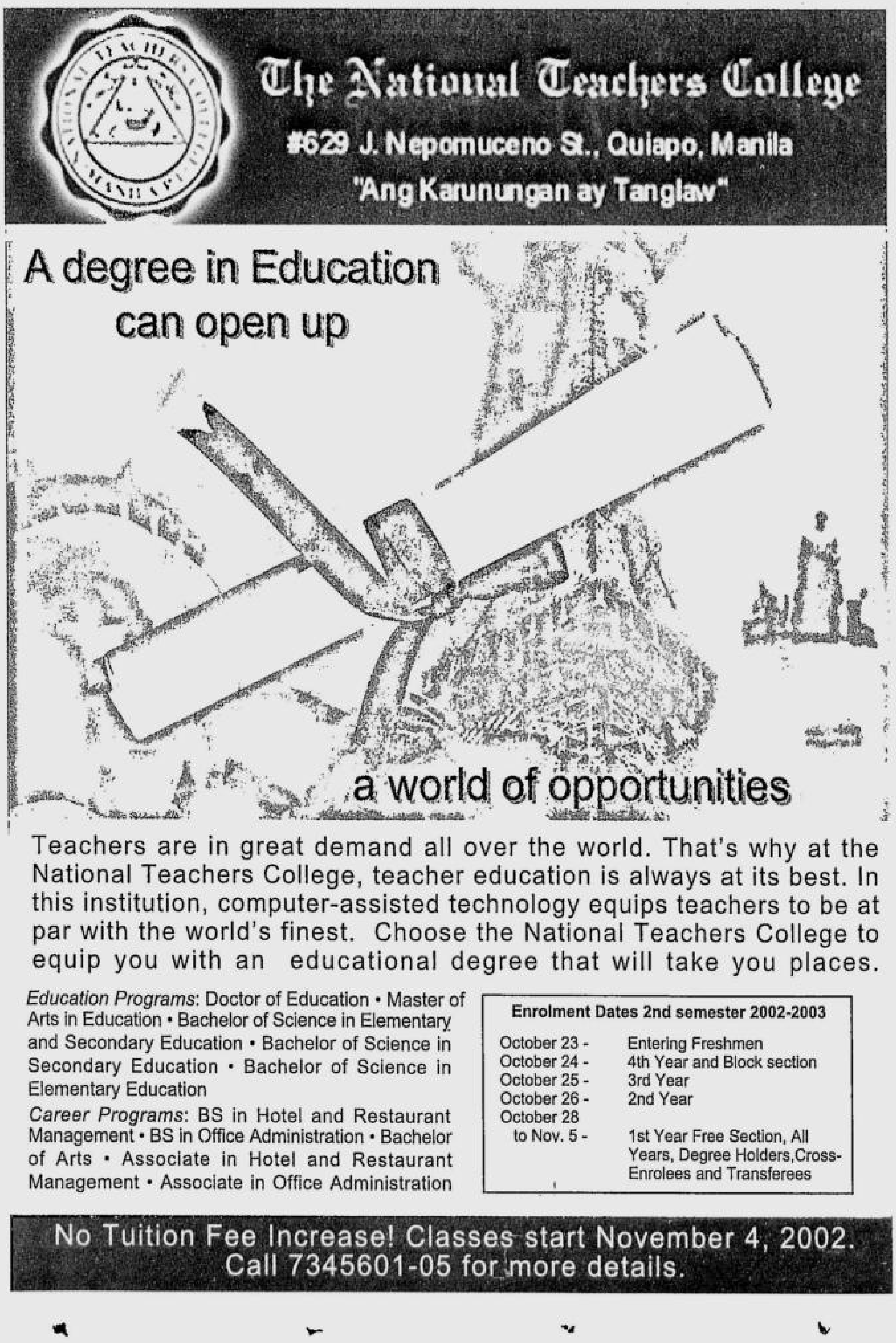

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Think twice about giving GMA special powers, DOJ warns

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

THE JUSTICE department said yesterday government officials—whether with the administration or opposition camps—should think twice about cloaking the President with emergency powers.

Despite the recent spate of bombings in Mindanao and Metro Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said, "We should think twice (about granting emergency powers to the President because) the cure (could be) more disastrous than the disease. We should examine the repercussions of emergency powers."

Perez said he agreed with President Macapagal- Arroyo that "we should not act hastily on this matter."

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez went ahead yesterday and filed House Resolution 22 which would grant emergency powers to the President in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks.

Gonzalez said Malacañang missed the point when it rejected emergency powers for the President.

He said such powers were "standby" powers the President could use only when she felt they were necessary.

The resolution asks the House and the Senate to authorize the President to use emergency powers, subject to restrictions prescribed by Congress, "to suppress lawless violence both in the countryside and urban centers brought about by criminals and terrorists, as well as prepare the nation for the possibility of war in the Middle East."

With the powers, Gonzalez said, the President could order warrantless arrests, arbitrary detention, checkpoints, price controls and even temporary takeover of public utilities and privately owned industries to protect the state.

But most members of the House thumbed down Gonzalez's resolution.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said there was no need for such powers.

"We understand (Gonzalez') good intentions but the time has not come to give the President special or emergency powers to confront the immediate threat," De Venecia said.

Other congressmen who echoed De Venecia included majority leader Neptali Gonzales II, Apolinario Lozada, Oscar Moreno and Prospero Nograles.

Only Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the House appropriations committee, supported the resolution.

"When you have these bombings left and right, Congress should do something about it," Andaya said.

Senators were also not too keen about giving President Macapagal emergency powers or declaring a state of emergency to address the spate of bombings.

With Cynthia D. Balana

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Apec will have terror, security on its mind

By Leah Makabenta
Desk Editor

THE RECENT wave of deadly bombings in Indonesia and the Philippines and a United States strongly focused on terrorism and Iraq will ensure that counter-terrorism and security will dominate the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (Apec) summit of leaders opening in Los Cabos, Mexico, tomorrow.

Regional diplomats say the bombings have changed the way threats are assessed in the region. Terrorism is now a global, not just a regional issue.

"It (Bali) has changed the region's perceptions and I think the Apec summit will reflect this," said Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce.

About 200 Australians were killed in the bombing of a nightclub in Bali on Oct. 19, the biggest single tragedy for the country since World War II.

For this year's summit host, Mexico, the terrorist threat couldn't have struck closer to home, according to Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard.

Mexicans were among the thousands of people who died at the World Trade Center attacks in New York on Sept. 11, 2001 and any kind of attack on the US is sure to affect Mexico which has more than 20 million nationals in America.

The fact that Mexico shares a 2,000-mile border with the US also makes it a possible entry point for terrorists wishing to harm Mexico's powerful neighbor.

Other agenda

Counter-terrorism is the main item in the US agenda at Apec and Washington is expected to use the meetings to promote its concerns, particularly its ongoing campaign to secure international support for its war against Iraq.

But, as one diplomat says, "hopefully there are other things on the agenda" for the proceedings not to be dominated by US security concerns.

Many Apec members have carefully calibrated their support for the US campaign against Iraq, holding out for an international response sanctioned by a strong United Nations Security Council resolution.

And though she is widely criticized at home for what is seen as her slavishness to US policy, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spot-on counter-terrorism initiatives—a trilateral anti-terrorism pact with Malaysia and Indonesia and a proposal to convene a terrorism summit—have been received positively.

The meetings are being held in the isolated, upscale resort of Los Cabos, located at the tip of the Baja peninsula on Mexico's Pacific coast. The site was chosen—with remarkable prescience it later turned out—long before Sept. 11 happened, when the only threat being anticipated was a stream of "globaholic" protesters coming through the 1,000-km trans-peninsular highway from the California border.

Stringent regime

Senior officials meeting in Los Cabos for the next two days from Wednesday (the so-called SOM meetings) will be putting the final touches to a counter-terrorism statement drafted by the US and pored over and deliberated on by various working groups over the past year.

According to a senior trade official involved in the meetings, the Americans are proposing a very stringent regime of customs and immigration procedures for the protection of regional trade but whose enforcement, it is feared, might hamper the movement of goods and people as well as place an unbearable financial burden on the weaker member economies of Apec.

A major sticking point is the STAR (Secure Trade in the Apec Region) initiative, a system of documentation of merchandise and cargo moving across borders, which will involve the adoption of very high standards of security and using high-tech machines in ports of entry said to cost $2 million each.

The statement will be further refined when the Apec leaders rejoin their juniors during the last three days of the week-long meetings (Oct. 23 to 27), introducing their own initiatives or otherwise trying to influence its language.

Not sexy

According to an official, Ms Macapagal will be introducing a "maritime security" initiative designed to secure for the country as much help, expertise and capacity-building required by an archipelagic state facing a terrorist threat.

In accordance with Apec tradition, the statement will be read by the host country's leader in the presence of the others, everyone of them wearing the costume native to the host country—in this case the *guayabera*, a linen shirt resembling the *barong tagalog*—and attended by a throng of media people waiting for just such a dramatic development.

But that, Apec officials said, is just one part of Apec, albeit a highly strategic and essential one.

There is another Apec, comprising the day-to-day army of working groups of bureaucrats who, through the past 13 years of Apec's existence, have successfully accomplished practical cooperation in such areas as the environment, fisheries, technology transfer, promotion of small and medium enterprises and tourism.

This is the Apec agenda that never makes it to the papers because "it doesn't look sexy," says one official.

Other Apec

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Delia Albert, who heads the Philippines' Apec secretariat, explained that this other Apec is the machinery that drives the momentum toward the goals agreed in Bogor, Indonesia, in 1994—free trade within Apec by 2010 for developed members and 2020 for developing members—to be achieved largely by voluntary action.

Apec groups the Pacific Rim countries of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Apec began as an informal dialogue group in 1989 to advance the process of cooperation among Asia-Pacific economies and work for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) then going on.

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Medel formally denies link to Nida Blanca murder

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRINCIPAL suspect in the murder of actress Nida Blanca in November last year formally told a justice department panel yesterday that he was just a fall guy.

In a consolidated affidavit of recantation and counter-affidavit filed yesterday, Philip L. Medel Jr. reiterated his claim that he had been tortured by police into admitting the crime.

Medel's affidavit was submitted by his counsel, Salvador Panelo, to the Department of Justice panel led by Senior State Prosecutor Archimedes Manabat.

And for the nth time, the lawyer for principal accused Roger Lawrence Strunk, Blanca's widower, succeeded in delaying the preliminary investigation into the murder case.

During a hearing yesterday, Manabat agreed to give Strunk's lawyer, Alma Mallonga, 10 more days to submit her client's counter-affidavit.

In asking for the extension, Mallonga said she had prepared her client's affidavit, but the latter had yet to swear to its contents before a competent authority in the United States.

In his 74-page affidavit, Medel reiterated the public recantation he made during the DOJ preliminary investigation on Nov. 23, 2001.

He said he executed his affidavit "to rebut the accusation that I am responsible, together with Strunk and other John Does, for the murder of Nida Blanca, and to expose the fabrications being made by the (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) to frame us for the murder of Nida Blanca."

Medel accused officials and members of the CIDG and Task Force Marsha, and virtually every government official who investigated the case, of a cover-up.

His first confession became the basis for the National Bureau of Investigation to re-implicate him in the murder case in July this year.

In his affidavit, Medel recalled what happened on Nov. 16, 2001, or nine days after Blanca's body was found in the Atlanta Centre in San Juan.

He said he was abducted by the CIDG and Task Force Marsha at about 12:30 p.m. on that day near his rented apartment on Kamias Road, Quezon City.

"I was then continuously assaulted in different parts of my body," said Medel, who said policemen "forcibly extracted strands of my mustache and my hair as well as a portion of the nail in my right thumb."

He said the CIDG men threatened to kill him if he refused to own up to the Blanca murder.

He said the CIDG men tried to suffocate him using a plastic bag. The policemen led by Chief Insp. Juanito Ruiz also tried to electrocute him, he charged.

To stop the torture, he said, he was forced to do what the policemen wanted. "I began to concoct a story in my mind on my participation in the killing."

He said the policemen dictated to him "what (I) should write" in his confession. He claimed that Mike Martinez, who had been implicated in the case and is missing, "like me is innocent of the murder of Nida Blanca."

Besides telling him what to write, the CIDG took him to the crime scene, he charged.

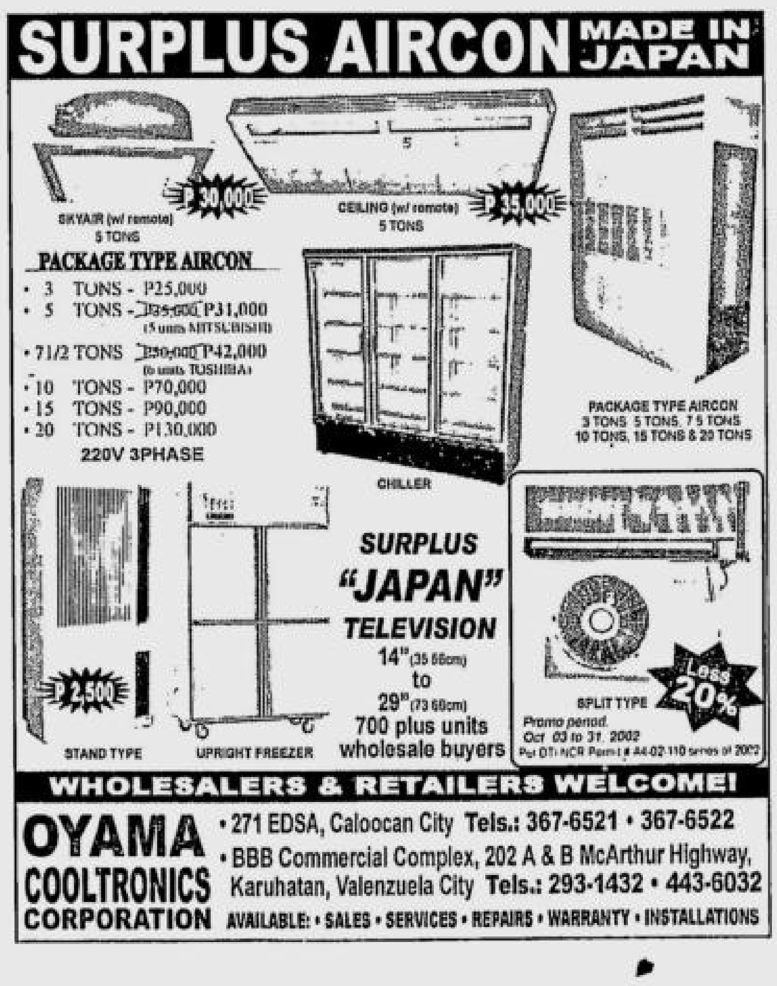
He said the policemen "were making me leave fingerprints" on the evidence found in the crime scene.

Medel recalled that before he was presented to reporters on Nov. 19, 2001, the policemen revised his confession several times.

He said his confession was full of loopholes and inconsistencies.

Medel pointed out that even the witnesses' account of Strunk's whereabouts from Nov. 6 to 7 contradicted the details described in his supposed confession.

Medel added that the CIDG "produced witnesses" to establish his supposed link with Strunk.



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Ifugaos play their music in Taiwan

AN IFUGAO delegation is representing the Philippines in a week-long international forum on ethnic music that started yesterday in Taiwan.

The theme of the forum hosted by the Center for Traditional Arts and the Taipei Cultural College is "The Study of Renaissance Music in a Traditional Society."

Representatives of China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Albania, Greece and the Solomon Islands are attending the forum along with members of the Taiwanese tribes Bu-nong, Amei, Pai-Wan and Tai-Ya.

Fire wrecks Jollibee plant

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. said it lost about P400 million from a fire that damaged a new commissary it was building in Canlubang, Laguna on Friday.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, JFC chief finance officer Miguel Jose Navarrete said the fire that started at 10 a.m. last Friday destroyed about 50 percent of the new commissary.

The P1.6-billion plant, scheduled to start operations next January, would have supplied the requirements of Jollibee stores in Luzon.

The cause of the fire at the property being built in the Camelray industrial park was still being investigated, Navarrete said.

The market, however, largely shrugged off the effects of the fire as JFC shares stood unchanged at P13.75 from Friday's closing.

The new commissary was aiming to produce each year 15,925 metric tons of processed meat, 169 metric tons of processed marine products, 1,058 metric tons of processed fruits, 5,486 metric tons of cereal and 12,493 metric tons of sauce and mixes.

JFC took out an P850 million loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in May 2001 for the construction of the commissary.

It was the group's third loan for the flagship Jollibee brand and the fifth for the entire JFC group which also includes Chowking Foods Corp., Greenwich Pizza Corp. and Delifrance Asia Ltd.

The company had planned the new commissary mainly for the use of the Jollibee brand although it was to also service the needs of Greenwich.

Jollibee will share its warehousing and distribution facilities with Chowking. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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The falsehoods and the truth about Bankwise and the Prama account

THE BACKGROUND

On December 2001 and January 2002, Seed Capital, represented by Mr. Roberto S. Guevara entered into agreements for the assignment by Wise Holdings of its subscription to 50.3% of BankWise's outstanding capital stock. This was an infusion of an additional P250 million, increasing the Bank's capital to P575 million.

Seed Capital generated the funds for the subscription payments by inviting investors like Mr. Dante A. Ang and Mr. Ramon Collado of Prama Foundation.

Mr. Collado, President and CEO of the Philippine Retirement Authority Member Association (Prama), agreed to be an investor on a temporary basis on the understanding that that his investment would be returned after a specific period and to be assumed by another investor. For this reason, his investment was made through a placement deposit with Seed Capital. Just the same, to qualify him as temporary investor in the bank's stock subscription, the Bank received his placement with Seed Capital for the account of Seed Capital.

Bank receipts dated Jan. 18, 2001 and Feb. 13, 2001 issued to Prama Foundation/ Mr. Collado clearly indicated that the deposits were for "stock subscription" through Seed Capital.

THE LIE

Recently, Mr. Collado alleged that there were unauthorized withdrawals and diversion of his deposit with BankWise, a reputable banking institution. He claimed the Bank defrauded him and his foundation of their money.

THE TRUTH

The purported debiting of cash advances, including alleged plane tickets, against Prama's accounts, is NOT TRUE. Said alleged debits are not recorded in the books of BankWise.

Bank records would show that it was Ms. Rica Mipaña, PRAMA Finance Officer who wrote Bankwise on July 17 asking the Bank to credit his deposit in favor of Seed Capital. The letter was duly noted by Mr. Collado,

Another letter on August 12, again signed by Ms. Mipaña, was sent to the bank asking that a total of P2 million from his placement with Seed Capital be withdrawn.

THE LIE

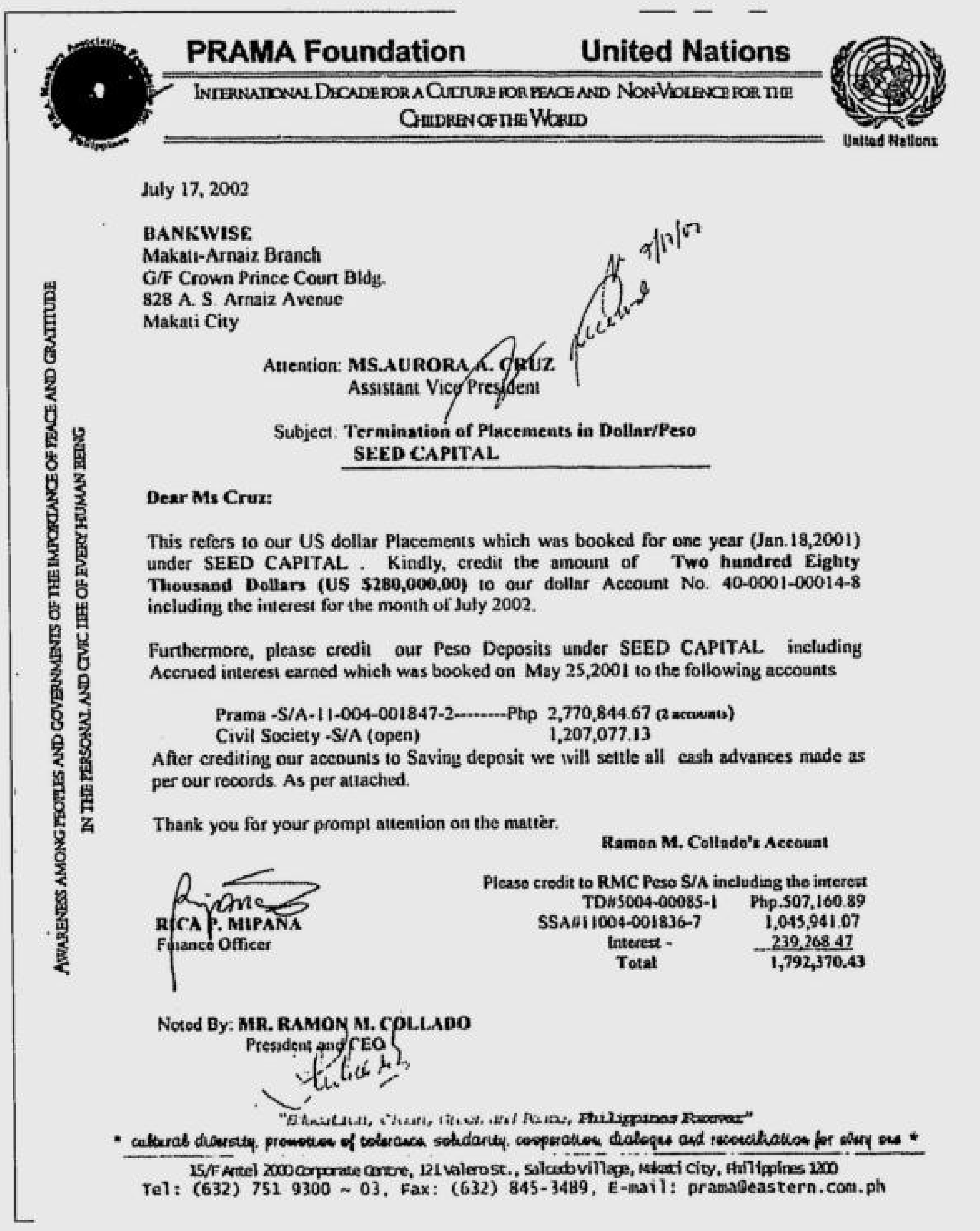
Mr. Dante A. Ang bought BankWise and effectively took over the bank.

THE TRUTH

Mr. Dante A. Ang did not buy BankWise. He bought INTO the Bank, along with a group of investors put together by Seed Capital, with a P10 million cash out paid over a period of 5 months. He was extended an option by Mr. Guevara of Seed Capital for additional P40 million equity payable in five years with 12 percent annual interest based on the diminishing balance. He has until April next year to decide whether or not to take the option.

He also did not help Seed Capital package the P250 million equity contribution. His participation was limited to his own equity; nothing more, nothing less.

As for Mr. Guevara's liability, as appearing in the books of the Bank, said liability has been fully settled as of July 30, 2002.



PRAMA Foundation **United Nations**

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE FOR PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

United Nations

AWARENESS AMONG PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND GRATITUDE IN THE PERSONAL AND CIVIC LIFE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING

July 17, 2002

BANKWISE
Makati-Arnaiz Branch
G/F Crown Prince Court Bldg.
828 A. S. Arnaiz Avenue
Makati City

Attention: **MS.AURORA A. CRUZ**
Assistant Vice President

7/17/02

Subject: **Termination of Placements in Dollar/Peso SEED CAPITAL**

Dear Ms Cruz:

This refers to our US dollar Placements which was booked for one year (Jan.18,2001) under SEED CAPITAL . Kindly, credit the amount of **Two hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (US $280,000.00)** to our dollar Account No. 40-0001-00014-8 including the interest for the month of July 2002.

Furthermore, please credit our Peso Deposits under SEED CAPITAL including Accrued interest earned which was booked on May 25,2001 to the following accounts

Prama -S/A-11-004-001847-2--------Php 2,770,844.67 (2 accounts)
Civil Society -S/A (open) 1,207,077.13

After crediting our accounts to Saving deposit we will settle all cash advances made as per our records. As per attached.

Thank you for your prompt attention on the matter.

Ramon M. Collado's Account

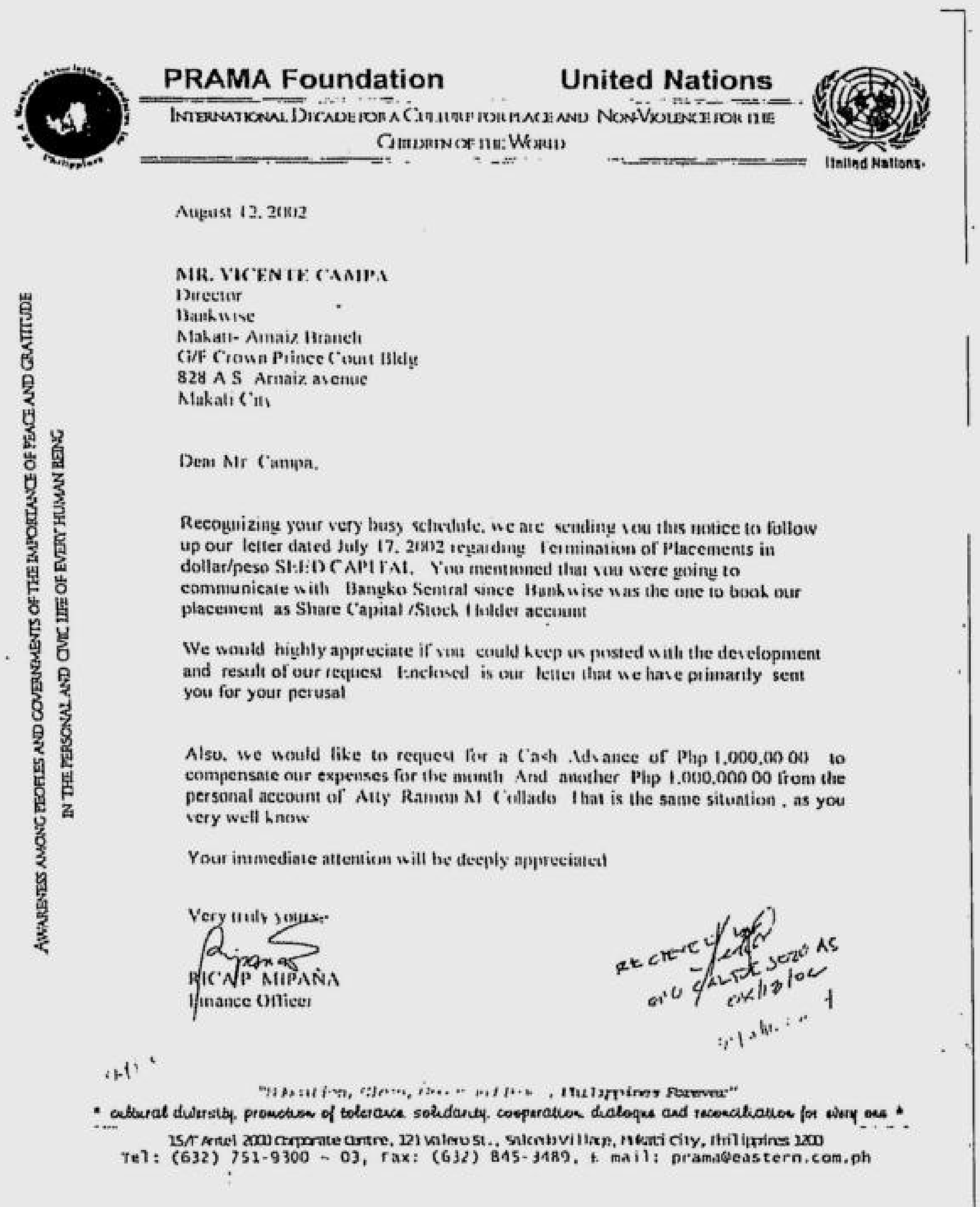
Please credit to RMC Peso S/A including the interest

TD#5004-00085-1	Php.507,160.89
SSA#11004-001836-7	1,045,941.07
Interest -	239,268.47
Total	1,792,370.43

RICA P. MIPANA
Finance Officer

Noted By: **MR. RAMON M. COLLADO**
President and CEO

"[illegible], Philippines Forever"
* cultural diversity, promotion of tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation for every one *
15/F Antel 2000 Corporate Centre, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines 1200
Tel: (632) 751 9300 ~ 03, Fax: (632) 845-3489, E-mail: prama@eastern.com.ph



PRAMA Foundation **United Nations**

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE FOR PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

United Nations.

AWARENESS AMONG PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND GRATITUDE IN THE PERSONAL AND CIVIC LIFE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING

August 12, 2002

MR. VICENTE CAMPA
Director
Bankwise
Makati- Arnaiz Branch
G/F Crown Prince Court Bldg
828 A S Arnaiz avenue
Makati City

Dear Mr Campa,

Recognizing your very busy schedule, we are sending you this notice to follow up our letter dated July 17, 2002 regarding Termination of Placements in dollar/peso SEED CAPITAL. You mentioned that you were going to communicate with Bangko Sentral since Bankwise was the one to book our placement as Share Capital /Stock Holder account

We would highly appreciate if you could keep us posted with the development and result of our request Enclosed is our letter that we have primarily sent you for your perusal

Also, we would like to request for a Cash Advance of Php 1,000,00 00 to compensate our expenses for the month And another Php 1,000,000 00 from the personal account of Atty Ramon M Collado That is the same situation , as you very well know

Your immediate attention will be deeply appreciated

Very truly yours,

RICA P MIPAÑA
Finance Officer

RECEIVED [illegible]

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15/F Antel 2000 Corporate Centre, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines 1200
Tel: (632) 751-9300 ~ 03, Fax: (632) 845-3489, E mail: prama@eastern.com.ph

THE STATUS OF THE CASE

On Oct. 21, 2002, Mr. Dante A. Ang wrote Commissioner Andrea Domingo of the Bureau of Immigration to hold in abeyance the scheduled deportation of Mr. Collado, a foreigner who is currently locked up in jail for allegedly having violated Philippine laws.

Mr. Ang said Mr. Collado cannot leave, and must not leave, the country without substantiating his charges against him and the bank. If he fails to support his claims (and BankWise is convinced he would fail to do so), he faces a costly libel case. He will have to answer for civil and moral damages.

Mr. Ang informed the Bureau of Immigration that the deferment of Mr. Collado's deportation would help the Philippine government prosecute a liar and a criminal. It will help save other Filipino citizens from further machinations from this man. It will enable the owners, investors and clients of BankWise to confront Mr. Collado and get justice. The public will benefit by knowing the truth.

Our most esteemed depositors:

We wish to thank you for their expression of faith in the Bank, its management and staff. BankWise is in business because it has earned your trust and confidence. Armed with your sustained support, we look forward to decades of more active participation in the banking community and the national life. Marami pong salamat.

BankWise
A Thrift Bank

Advt.

Congress unlikely to give nod to intel fund increase

By J. Javellana and C. Balana

THE HOUSE appropriations committee has lost its enthusiasm for voting more intelligence funds for the government as another deadly bomb explosion hit Zamboanga City for the third time this month.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., the committee chair, said the committee would launch an inquiry and ask Malacañang, the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and other intelligence agencies to explain where the P1.2 billion in intelligence funds for this year went.

"It's about time we look at the usage of these funds. With these problems (bombings), they should show us where the money was spent and what were the results," Andaya said yesterday.

He was joined by Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico.

But in the Senate, Sen. Manny Villar urged colleagues to approve a request for more intelligence funds for the military and the police in order to prevent more bombing attacks.

Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on finance hearing the proposed defense budget, said he was in favor of granting the increase after Congress has thoroughly reviewed how the money was spent.

"We want to ask questions on how the money is being spent, then we will work for the increase . . . We need to strengthen intelligence-gathering efforts," he said.

The government is proposing a P1.2-billion budget for intelligence, about P650 million of which will go to Malacañang intelligence fund and P100 million to AFP intelligence. The rest is to be divided among the intelligence groups of the justice, energy and environment departments.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and top intelligence officials will be briefing today the Senate select oversight committee on intelligence funds on the intelligence capability of the government and how the funds are being used.

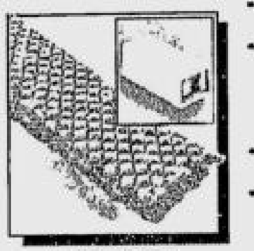
At the House, Andaya said he would summon military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

Suplico said he would not block the increase in intelligence funds but said he would propose a special provision in the budget law requiring a detailed audit of intelligence spending.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said people should stop blaming the intelligence network, particularly Corpus.

"We're not the only country that is experiencing a failure of intelligence," he said.

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?



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Owwa budget slashed by P200 million

LABOR officials have slashed by almost P200 million the budget of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration following the controversy over fund management of the Owwa secretariat.

The budget approved by the Owwa board of trustees for next year totaled only P562.3 million, down from last year's P748.4 million.

The reduction would affect the Owwa's information, education, and training and reintegration programs and overseas operation.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said the Owwa would not be renewing the services of overseas center coordinators whose contracts have expired.

"We have enough people in the welfare centers abroad. Besides, we also have the labor attaché and the embassy," Imson said in an earlier interview.

He said the allowances given to officers abroad were a strain on the budget, which was reduced from P235 million to P199 million.

The budget for the information and training program was almost halved from P31 million to P16 million.

Even the Pamaskong Handog sa OFWs that is given to Filipino workers coming home for Christmas is now down to P500,000 from P1.25 million.

The Owwa will be receiving by the end of the year some P500 million from its investment in the Smokey Mountain project if the board approves the terms of payment. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Erap asks leave for grave-visiting

AS though police did not have their hands full already dealing with the bomb scare gripping Metro Manila, here come the Estrada father and son posing a potential security nightmare.

Jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada asked the Sandiganbayan yesterday to allow him to visit the tomb of his late father Emilio Ejercito in his San Juan hometown on All Saints Day.

Only a few days before, his son Jinggoy made a similar request asking to be allowed to visit the grave of his maternal grandmother in Iba, Zambales and that of his father-in-law in San Juan.

The Estradas have been on trial for the past 18 months for the capital offense of plunder.

The ex-president, 65, is charged with amassing P4.1 billion in ill-gotten wealth with the help of nine alleged conspirators during his short, scandal-plagued term.

Having produced 36 witnesses so far, state prosecutors are now on the final leg of their presentation of evidence.

Tomorrow, the court will hold the first of three whole-day sessions to make up for the one-week break in the trial owing to the absence of the one of the Sandiganbayan justices. *Volt Contreras*

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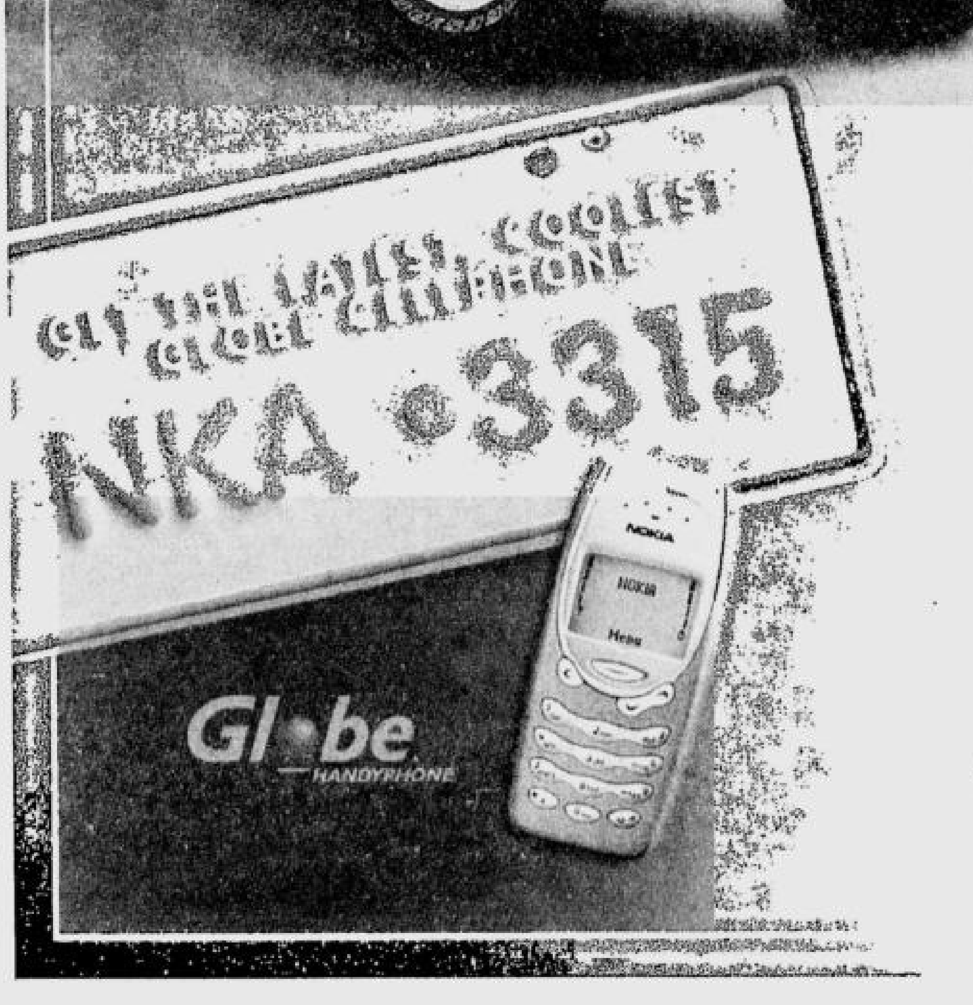

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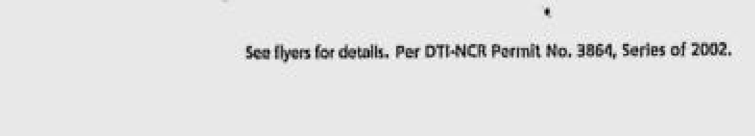

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3864, Series of 2002.

Eugenia D. Apostol *Founding Chairman*

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OPINION

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Unnecessary measure

EDITORIAL

MALACAÑANG did the right thing in rejecting the proposal of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez to grant the President emergency powers in the wake of the bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila. A grant of emergency powers to the President would only have sowed panic and would have aggravated the psychological state and worsened the economic situation of the country. Such a grant of extraordinary powers would have created the impression that things have gone out of control.

The grant of emergency powers may not even be necessary. The Constitution provides that the President, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may, "whenever it becomes necessary, call out such Armed Forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion." Ultimately it is the President who will have to make a determination of what level of force a situation demands.

Three or four bombings do not a nationwide emergency make. It would be different, of course, if bombs were exploding all over the country, from Aparri to Tawi-Tawi. With the entire nation up in flames, Congress might then approve Gonzalez's proposal.

It is also well that President Macapagal-Arroyo counseled the people not to let terrorists disrupt their daily life. "Let us not allow terrorists to destroy our day," she said. "Let us live our lives normally under the protection of the authorities."

But for people to be able to continue to live their lives normally, the government must guarantee their safety.

Nothing—not even threats to his personal safety—seems to faze or cow the Filipino. In Metro Manila, the people didn't appear to have been intimidated by the bombing of a bus Friday night; thousands flocked to the malls for the so-called "Midnight Madness." Elsewhere, people went about their daily business, heard Mass in the churches and went to shopping centers and other public places.

The police will have to provide sufficient protection to the people to assure them that they will be safe when they step out of their homes. The screening of people entering malls, stores, buildings, churches and schools will have to be tightened. The entry points to the LRT, MRT and provincial railway stations can be tightly guarded, but buses, jeepneys and other public conveyances can pose a problem because their operators do not have the means, the personnel and the equipment to ensure that terrorists will not board them and set off bombs in the course of the trip.

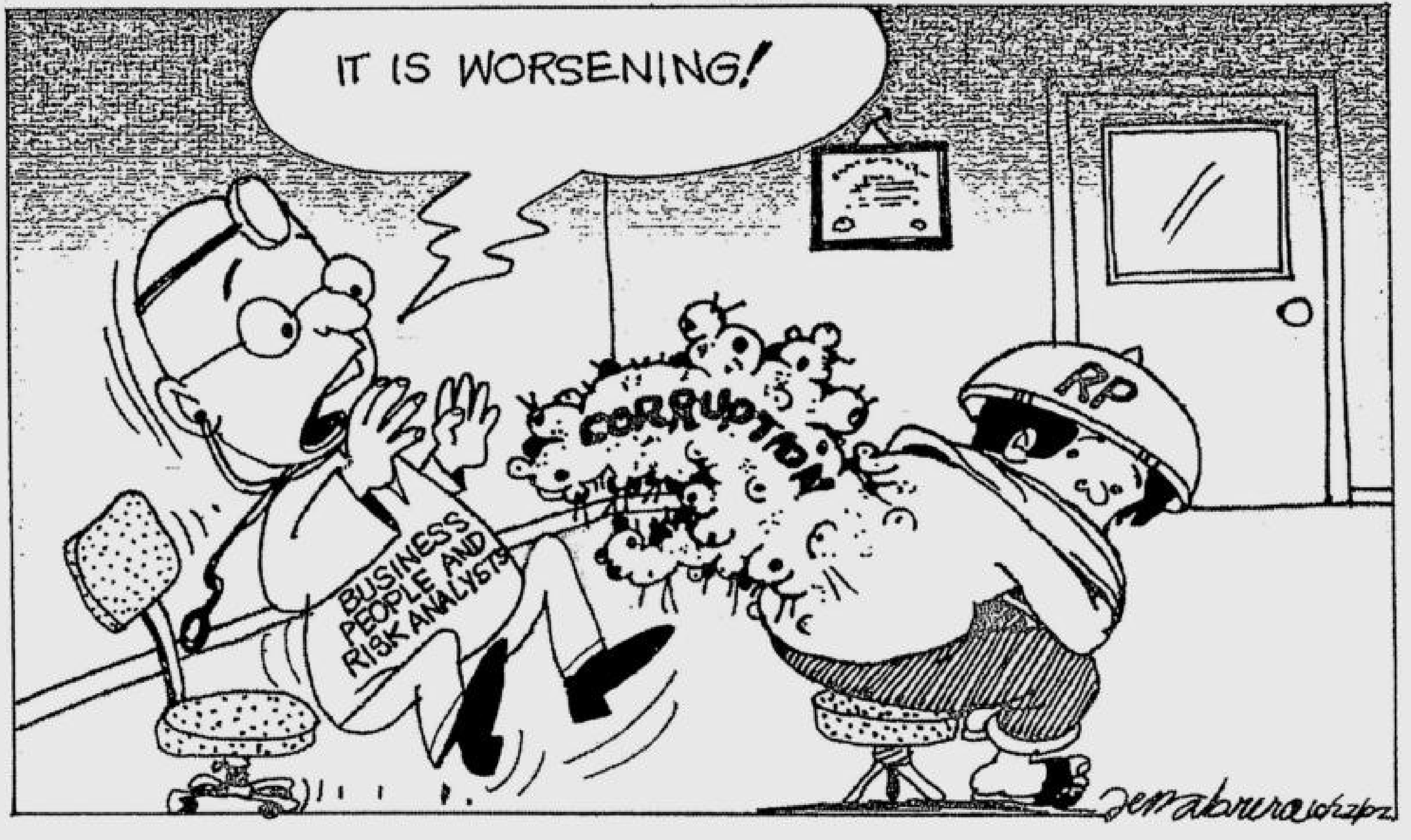
The Philippine National Police said that it would assign "secret marshals" to board public utility vehicles in Metro Manila. But considering the number of buses, jeepneys and mega taxis operating in the metropolis, we doubt if every vehicle can be provided with a secret marshal. Other complementary measures, such as the use of bomb-sniffing dogs and metal detectors, will have to be taken.

The utilities, such as the water, power and communication companies, will have to be provided additional police protection against would-be saboteurs. The destruction of these vital installations could bring all economic activity to a standstill in the metropolis and other urban areas.

The strengthening of the intelligence system would help greatly in containing the threat from terrorism. It is better to track down would-be terrorists and arrest them before they can inflict harm and damage on a community than just to react after a bombing has occurred.

The people themselves can help provide information on terrorists. They can report suspicious-looking persons to the police or other law enforcement authorities. But a proposal to arm the barangay tanod could give rise to abuses and create additional problems as some of them are suspected to be protectors of politicians and gambling and drug lords.

The bombings should not reduce the nation to a state of physical and mental paralysis. The government will have to provide sufficient protection, and the citizenry will have to help monitor the goings-on in their communities. They will also have to exercise caution and vigilance to guard against those who would disrupt the daily life of the nation.



THE PLRA empire strikes back

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER Batangas Gov. Tony Leviste, the ever-loving hubby of Sen. Loren Legarda and chair of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA), asked for a meeting after the series of columns on the conflict between the PLRA and the association of foreign retirees it is supposed to be serving, the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association (Prama) Foundation. (PDI, 10/16,17,21/02) With Leviste at the meeting were Erlinda P. Lozada, officer in charge of PLRA, and Jun Marcelo, a PLRA official who supposedly withdrew cash advances from Prama Foundation bank deposits.

Leviste washed his hands of the problems of the PLRA, saying that they happened during the old administration, when the government agency was still called the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA). He said he took over only six months ago. He was actually appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo one year ago, but the former chair, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, sat on his appointment for six months. It was Leviste who inserted the word "Leisure" in the original PRA name, thus making it PLRA. But although it now has a new name and chair, the PLRA still has the same members of the board of trustees (Secretaries Roxas and Richard Gordon of Tourism, Bangko Sentral Gov. Rafael Buenaventura, and Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo), officials and employees.

It was also the old management that unilaterally terminated the memorandum of agreement between the PRA and Prama Foundation, terminated the appointment of Ramon M. Collado, a retired Spanish lawyer, as PRA consultant, rescinded the resolution requiring compulsory membership in Prama Foundation and adopted the policy that membership of principal retirees would now be on a voluntary basis.

The PRA also ordered the depository banks to double the PRA management fee from one-half percent to one percent, thus depriving Prama Foundation of its one-half percent share. That's how the problem started resulting in the filing of criminal, civil and administrative charges against the PRA board of trustees and top officials, their conviction for indirect contempt for refusing to obey the orders of the regional trial court of Makati (they posted bail to avoid arrest) and, in retaliation, the arrest, detention and scheduled deportation of Collado. But Leviste was not involved in all that.

When Leviste came in, he wanted to solve the problem by returning to the status quo and then renegotiating with Prama Foundation for new terms. In other words, follow due process. But when he presented this plan to the board, he said he was reversed by Roxas, who is still technically his boss because he is chair of PLRA by virtue of his membership in the Board of Investments which is under the Department of Trade and Industry headed by Roxas. By the way, the Cabinet members don't attend the meetings of the PLRA board of trustees and only send their proxies. Leviste said he would again present his plan to the board with the Cabinet members attending.

Leviste also gave me two thick folders of documents. One contained a letter of officer in charge Ms Lozada to Secretary Roxas containing alleged misrepresentations by Collado to media, and numerous annexes. None of it explained or even mentioned the unilateral termination of the MOA between the PRA and Prama Foundation. And while it contained the Ombudsman's resolution dismissing the charges against PLRA general manager and CEO Vernette Umali-Paco, it did not have the resolution suspending Umali-Paco, or the Makati RTC decision ordering the PLRA to reinstate the MOA and the management fee for Prama Foundation, or the citation for contempt when the board of trustees refused to obey the court order.

The other folder contained comments on Prama Foundation from the foreign retirees who were furnished by the PLRA with forms with blanks. Since the documents came from the PLRA, naturally most of them were derogatory to Prama Foundation. Most of the retirees said they did not want to be members of Prama Foundation. Naturally, because as members they have to pay a P2,000 membership fee annually.

In her letter to Roxas, Lozada alleged that the members of Prama Foundation, "disgusted with his (Collado's) conduct, actually filed a case with SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) questioning the amendments made in the foundation's by-laws. The members questioned why the control of Prama is in the hands of only one man supported by four unelected Trustees whose honoraria are even higher than that received by the chair of the PRA. To make matters worse, these unelected trustees handpicked by Mr. Collado are the only voting members, as against the other members of Prama who are now merely called as sustaining members. Consequently, the four trustees of Mr. Collado are the only ones empowered to vote on changes in the policies of the foundation."

But even if all the allegations against Collado are true, his arrest, detention and forthcoming deportation smack of persecution, vindictiveness and abuse of power. For they came after the decisions of the court and the near-jailing of top PLRA officials for contempt.

Such actions will surely give the Philippines a black eye in the world community. How can we attract retirees with money, investors and tourists if the world sees what we do to foreigners who speak out like Collado? We keep denouncing abuses against human rights, but this is one of them, committed by our own government.

Stop the madness

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has rejected Raul Gonzalez's call to give her emergency powers. Whether that is a case of Caesar pretending to reject the crown, we do not know. But clearly we haven't seen the last of it. Nor indeed of piecemeal, rather than wholesale, calls for "sterner measures" (read suspension of civil liberties) to meet all sorts of emergencies. The National Security Council for one has been making lots of noises in that respect lately.

What's wrong with that tack?

To begin with, it echoes the line much favored by the Philippine National Police. Namely, that each time there is an upsurge in crime—and that has been happening increasingly over the last decade, kidnapping turning from a seasonal criminal activity to a permanent cottage industry—it has to be given sweeping powers, quite apart from a sweeping budget. What's idiotic about it of course is that it rewards failure. Each time the PNP fails to curb crime—which is why it surges to begin with—it gets to have an excuse to ask for more power and money. So all it has to do really is let the country go to the dogs, and it will have everything it wants.

That, not quite incidentally, is also what has happened in Basilan, as I've pointed out several times. Wahab Akbar has been governor of that island for many years, after turning his back on the Abu Sayyaf, which he helped unleash on his hapless island. It was under his term that the Abu Sayyaf grew to become the monster it now is. Elsewhere in this country, runaway kidnapping, rape and murder are a reason to take a mayor or governor to task for being remiss in his duties. Or in worst cases, to institute recall proceedings against him. Not so Akbar. He has not only not been summoned to Malacañang to explain why he cannot stop a criminal group from holding his small island hostage, he has been rewarded with untold riches to make his island respectable. He has even been promoted to a pillar in the crusade against terrorism.

Giving GMA emergency powers to deal with today's emergency situation is exactly that: rewarding failure. We do not know that the bombings are the handiwork of dyed-in-the-wool terrorists or merely honest-to-goodness extortionists. Criminality has gotten out of hand in this country—in case you don't know, the Chinese are leaving en masse, being the *suki* of kidnappers—and GMA has only herself to blame for it. You cannot fight criminality by the ways of Dante Ang—who, not quite incidentally, now owns a bank—you can only fight it by the ways of Colombo. Not by PR but by detection.

There's more. Giving government emergency powers is not just a case of rewarding failure, it is a case of putting the very people who made a mess of things beyond the pale of public scrutiny or criticism. That is like agreeing to Marcos declaring martial law to stop anarchy and lawlessness—it is to forget that he was responsible for them. The only difference being that Marcos was directly so (it was his goons who were planting bombs all over Metro Manila and environs), while GMA is only indirectly so. But it is GMA's thoroughly irresponsible and reckless policy of spoiling for a fight with terrorists, real or imagined, thinking America loves us as much as we love America, that has dug the hole we're in.

None of the Southeast Asian countries has our problem with bombings. Not Thailand, not Malaysia and Singapore, not the Indochinese countries. Only the Pentagon, and the idiots who comprise the local National Security Council, insist they too are at the mercy of bombers. Not even Indonesia has that problem: The Bali bombings were clearly not aimed at Indonesians, they were aimed at foreigners. It's only our bombings that are decimating locals.

As I said yesterday, we never had that problem during Fidel Ramos' time, when a peace process was in place. We began to experience bombings—assuming they are truly the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf and its allies—only during Erap's time, after he took it in his head to stop a kidnap group specializing in foreigners and showing a fetish for decapitation by unleashing an all-out war against Muslim Mindanao. Indeed, by stoking this country's benighted centuries-old anti-Muslim prejudices to a raging fire in aid of it.

The whole argument leads to an endless spiral of giving government more powers: If our overseas Filipino workers now start getting hit by terrorist attacks—as will be the result of our playing Tonto to the US's Lone Ranger—Malacañang will now have another excuse to call for emergency powers. Ad infinitum, ad absurdum.

In fact, the solution is not more emergency powers, it is more rational thought. It is not more war games and more saber-rattling, it is more rethinking of, or just plain junking, these policies.

There is, finally, one last—and most vital—reason for rejecting the idea of making GMA all-powerful to meet a threat of her own making. Which is that it presumes that democracy, characterized by the rule of law and the sway of human rights, is weak or powerless or incapable of meeting threats to itself. Nothing is farther from the truth, as GMA's own exceptional circumstances show. If GMA is President now, it is because of an exercise of democracy in its purest form, which took the form of the people directly expressing its sovereign will in an act of people power.

Emergency powers, or calls for the curtailment of human rights, completely remove power from the people and repose it entirely in the hands of their leaders. The premise being that government knows best. If that were true, Erap would still be in power, not GMA.

In fact, the people are not weak, democracy is not powerless. They are the greatest force known to humankind. They are the only force that has really been able to stop tyrannies. They are the only force that will really stop terrorism.

Canonization notes

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOON after the canonization of Opus Dei's founder, St. Josemaria Escriva, last Oct. 6, and the thanksgiving Mass the day after, officiated by current prelate Javier Echevarria, I found myself looking into the problem of our Filipino workers in Italy. Some 30,000 to 40,000 of them have visas but no work documents, and thus face possible deportation under a new law passed by the Italian Parliament last July, unless they avail themselves of the regularization program by Nov. 9. It was a real problem to which I devoted several columns. But upon arrival here, I looked at my notes on the canonization and realized I had left out a few tidbits. Before I store them away, here they are.

* * *

I have told friends that one has to experience a canonization at least once, for the Church reserves some of its most touching rituals for those whom it acknowledges before the world for their "heroicity" of virtue. The rites for St. Josemaria, held under a brilliant Roman autumn sky, were particularly impressive because of the perfection in detail for which Opus Dei has come to be known. One was the way they tackled the problem of distributing communion to most of some 400,000 people, all within half an hour—a marvel in crowd management. The priests fanned in all directions, accompanied by male volunteers holding up white umbrellas that were visible everywhere.

* * *

Philippine Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier was particularly impressed with the fact that long after the canonization ceremony had ended, the people still sat around St. Peter's Square, eating their *baon* amid a very festive atmosphere. It was as if they didn't want that memorable day to end.

Before I left, I arranged for a dzRH broadcast of the canonization with Cecile Guidote Alvarez, my radio partner, in lieu of our regular Sunday program on poverty alleviation. Globe Telecom was kind enough to give us free use of the phone. My broadcast from the steps of St. Peter's was made at 3 p.m. Rome time (9 p.m. here) but the place still teemed with people. In fact Cecile could hear all the sounds in the background, such as the youth singing and the ambulance sirens blaring. At the request of listeners that dzRH broadcast was aired again last Oct. 10.

By the way, many callers wanted to know how they could get hold of the devotional cards to St. Josemaria. They can go to the centenary exhibit on his life and work, scheduled from Oct. 25-Nov. 9 at Ali Mall in Cubao, where prayer cards will be available.

* * *

Because Rome was packed with pilgrims, many Filipinos had to stay in hotels two or three hours away from Rome, such as those in Assisi or Pompeii. The convents and monasteries in Rome were also packed with priests and nuns from various religious orders. In the early morning of Oct. 6 and 7, the crowds advanced toward the Square on foot from a distance, as the buses could no longer get in. Many carried flags to identify their groups. It was most impressive to see the "armies" of Josemaria marching, reminiscent of the pilgrim crowds during the Jubilee Year.

* * *

The event drew people closer to one another, including those from "rival" orders. One Jesuit friend of ours, Fr. Jose Quilong-quilong of Cagayan de Oro, who has been studying in Rome for a number of years now, was busy ferrying his *kababayan* from Mindanao and Cebu to and from the airport, and escorting them around Rome, and looking for accommodations for other priests in the houses of various religious orders. But the mammoth crowds also attracted scalpers. Money changers were changing dollars at 83 euro cents to a dollar, compared to the normal 96 or 97 cents.

* * *

Talk in Rome was that during the canonization rites for the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, many Pinoys became TNT in Italy. To salve their conscience, they formed the San Lorenzo Ruiz community. The same thing happened during the beatification of the Cebuano Pedro Calungsod in 1999. There are speculations that there would soon be a St. Josemaria Escriva community.

* * *

As a young lieutenant, my husband went to Rome in 1963 as the aide-de-camp of then Vice President and Foreign Secretary Emmanuel Pelaez, who had a private audience with Pope John XXIII. When my husband was introduced to him, the affable Pope put an arm around him and related that he was a private in World War I. "Don't worry, my son," the Pope said. "You will become a general someday." My husband cherished that brief encounter and over the years since Pope John died, after one of the shortest reigns (nearly five years), we made it a point to visiat his tomb in the basilica's crypt.

* * *

On this recent visit, we were attracted one morning at St. Peter's to a queue of people before a glass sarcophagus beneath an altar, not too far from the bronze Bernini canopy over St. Peter's tomb, under the gigantic dome of Michaelangelo. We soon happily realized that it was Pope John, whose body had since been exhumed from the crypt and exposed for public veneration on the ground floor. Father Quilong-Quilong told us later that this happened last year, when John was beatified together with Pope Piux XI in a splendid ceremony as only the Church would conduct for its princes.

When they opened his tomb, John's body was found to be totally uncorrupted. Now, with a thin layer of wax on his benign face, the short rotund figure that was so much loved by the world is unmistakable. There is a loud clamor from around the world for the canonization of this pontiff who initiated the Second Vatican Council that ushered the fresh breath of the Spirit into the ancient institution. His upcoming canonization as well as that of Mother Teresa's should be a reason for saving up for that once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Linked issues, waning support

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO meetings were held over the past week or so in Beijing that addressed common concerns and involved shared strategies. I joined the Filipino delegates to the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for their 7th General Assembly and 20th Anniversary. Parallel to this meeting was the Second General Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), an international funding agency established soon after the Rio Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, precisely to provide funding for environmental projects and programs around the world.

In its "Beijing Declaration," the AFPPD members pledged to work with other parliamentarians to "continuously develop and make greater contributions to the realization of population growth in harmony with socio-economic development, resource utilization and environmental protection for the sake of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific Region."

Increasingly, it seems, legislators are realizing the important role they play in the pursuit of enlightened policies on population and development, especially with regard to the reproductive health of all people. Before, family planning programs were thought to be the sole concern of the executive branch, whose agencies are supposed to implement the goals and policies of the administration. Today, though, legislators are seeing the need for population policy to be enshrined in law, to protect it from the waxing and waning of each administration's resolve and commitment to addressing population concerns.

Beyond the drafting and passage of laws and resolutions, though, lawmakers could also play an important role in steering the national debate, especially in the Philippines, where such a "motherhood" (literally) issue like reproductive health still stirs heat and controversy. Where before legislators tended to shy away from such matters, fearing getting embroiled in controversy, more and more of them are speaking out and even risking their political fate by taking a stand.

* * *

IT'S a shame, though, that even as they were meeting on opposite ends of Beijing, the participants in both the GEF assembly and the AFPPD gathering had little or no opportunity to interact and discuss their crosscutting concerns. The issues are indeed linked. While population growth is not the sole factor in the speedy deterioration of the environment—human greed being a contender for the title of "most destructive factor"—there's no denying that population pressures and the competition for scarce resources are driving people to ever more careless and irresponsible exploitation of the environment.

Then, too, while the GEF meet drew environment officials (the Philippines was represented by Environment Secretary Sonny Alvarez) and NGOs involved in environmental issues, the discussions would surely have been enriched by the presence of parliamentarians responsible for drawing up laws and creating the policy environment necessary to ensure that development takes place in a sustainable and responsible manner.

Ironically, even as we see each day growing evidence of the links between these issues, many governments seem to prefer to live in denial, thinking they can slow down the rate of environmental destruction without likewise slowing down the rate of population growth.

* * *

IN HIS talk on the opening day of the parliamentarians' meeting, Jyoto Shankar Singh, president of Population 2005, deplored what he called the "pall of silence" that descended on the participants in the recent Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development regarding the linked issues of population growth, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Singh offered several reasons for this refusal to confront the issue. "First, several governments wanted to avoid such a discussion because they feared that the discussion would inevitably lead to a discussion of women's right to choose (and they obviously wanted to avoid such a discussion). Several others felt that if the topic were to be discussed, the Johannesburg process could reopen some of the agreements reached at (the conference on Population and Development in) Cairo. A third factor, in my view, was the lack of major involvement and participation of population organizations in the preparatory process."

Singh believes the participation of major population organizations could have "helped focus governmental and media attention on the thematic issues relating to population and sustainable development." But in Johannesburg, he said, "this did not happen."

* * *

A UN official, says Singh, was "blunt in his assessment" of the trend among governments in the decade since the remarkable string of international conferences sponsored by the UN focused the world's attention to the related issues of human rights, the environment, sustainable development and women's rights.

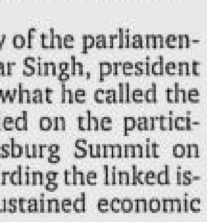
"The momentum of Cairo has been reversed and must be turned around," said the official. "Northern consumption is still growing; reproductive health and women's empowerment are still neglected. This undermines prospects for alleviating poverty and reversing environmental problems."

Now more than ever, especially in the Philippines, legislators need to take up the slack in the face of the executive's withering support for reproductive health programs. A Malaysian member of parliament, explaining that his is a "small country with a small population," pointed out that "No matter how small the population is, no country can develop without addressing population issues."

The Isle of Negros (III)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



JOHN White and his men "siestaed" in Valladolid, a town he describes as having substantial stone and hardwood houses and two American Thomasite teachers. He learns the system of "*vale*" with the local Chinese some of whom had been baptized, cut off their pigtails and married local girls. It was a rare case though despite the fact that the common Negros names such as Lacson, Locsin, Tiongco, etc were "merely Chinese Lak-sung, Lok-sing, Ti-ong-co."

The population had its pure Visayans, Spanish mestizos and the mestizo Sangley who were the merchants and *hacienderos* and supported the new regime. The Spanish mestizos furnished the doctors, lawyers and other professionals including politicians but weren't too fond of the Americans.

The so-called *babaylanes* were wreaking havoc on the land in the same manner as the NPAs of today. As they traveled to Himamaylan they encountered blackened ruins where prosperous farms once stood. People in the area were silent, afraid to speak, for they dreaded the bandits. His group ran into a Spaniard whose face and body was horribly scarred from bolos of marauding bandits. Papa Isio's men had burnt the buildings, driven the cattle to the mountains, and kidnapped the younger women for the *babaylan* chiefs while had been left for dead.

In the heart of the Binalbagan Valley, one hacienda followed another and there were Spanish, Swiss, German and Filipino *hacienderos*. The advice to him by a Spaniard was "set a thief to catch a thief" which was how the Spanish Guardia Civil had done it, enlisting some of the *babaylanes* as informers against their comrades "The Americans were not trained to fight creeping through the jungle for days just to kill one bandit."

In spite of the raids Isabela was always gay with a large number of *mestizos* and foreigners ready to party. The *babaylanes* might be raiding during the day but at night, there were *bailes*.

Yet all Papa Isio controlled were some 200 men. Papa Isio's real name was Dionicio Papa, originally a laborer in the lowlands who fled after committing a crime though no one could remember what he had done. He was uneducated but had picked up some Latin as a sacristan of his village church and now posed as the head of a new religion. The hatred generated toward the friars gave him recruits just as the hatred toward the government gives the NPA and the Abu Sayyaf enrollees.

"Papa Isio posed as a friend of the oppressed." (So what else is new? Every Filipino politician does the same.) The hacienda laborers were reputed to be unjustly treated by their masters during the Spanish days. They could be imprisoned for debt or made to work out their debts. It was a sort of slavery and resulted in people escaping to the hills. (Exactly what they had done in the past whenever they felt put-upon; unfortunately our hills and mountains are now denuded.) Apparently this situation was prevalent in the country but more obvious in Negros because of the prosperity of the landed gentry. (The system of debt-slavery had been practiced since time immemorial even before the coming of the European).

However, disgruntled field hands weren't the only members. There were the usual criminals who were escaping their sentences or too lazy to earn an honest living. They also were not content just to collect tribute but used to burn, pillage and torture "informers" or kill them.

In those days Himamaylan was a small pueblo along a sandy beach with shady coconut trees. Between Negros and Panay was a crescent-shaped sand bar that sheltered fishing bancas, trading *paraos* or small *lorchas* (schooners) from Iloilo. The stone church and convent that was big enough for a dozen men to enjoy separate quarters had been looted during the insurrection and the Recoletos had not returned. A lone American teacher lived there in solitary splendor.

The mayor of Himamaylan was a young man with several children called Serafin Gatuslao who befriended the American. During White's tour of duty in Negros they would go shooting in the rice paddies and ponds and retrieve ducks, teal, snipe, parrots and cockatoos. Picnics called *sunsuman* consisted of traveling up the river or *estero* to an hacienda with Serafin's family and the pretty girls of the neighborhood. The bancas would pass under overhanging mangroves through narrow passageways with nipa palms. At the hacienda a suckling pig was roasted under a mango tree and served atop banana leaves.

It was not all fun and games however. His unit's Remingtons were rotten, "somewhat more dangerous to the possessor than to the prospective enemy and must have been a job-lot manufactured for some Central American republic..." It was left up to them to capture their own firearms from bandits. White recounts that he didn't see a bandit killed by those shot-guns but he saw Constabulary soldiers killed or injured by bursting breeches.

Their first encounter was at Hacienda Soledad. They arrived 20 minutes late and the *babaylanes* had left taking *palay*, sugar in *bayongs*, some carabaos and horses and two young girls. They gave chase traveling 15 or 20 miles at breakneck speed but it was not until dawn that they begun to stumble over the stolen items that the bandits were discarding as they climbed the mountain trail. They found the horses and the carabaos but the girls were still with the bandits. At daybreak they came upon a stream and discovered the two none the worse for wear bathing their tired feet. The chase was abandoned but White was chastised by his commander for making the expedition since the *babaylanes* were negotiating for surrender! White comments that the bandits had a funny way of negotiating while carrying on business as usual.

How I survived a beauty pageant

YOUNG BLOOD

Frances Margaret H. Arreza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WITH all the glamour and prestige attached to beauty pageants, one would never guess the rigors that the candidates have to go through. It was only when I joined the Mutya ng Pilipinas this year that my eyes were opened to beauty myths, pageant boo-boos and clichés. And I discovered that pageants are not at all synonymous to triviality.

Unlike some candidates who allotted at least a year to prepare themselves physically by going through fitness training and choosing the right "look" in makeup and hairdo and mentally by learning how to pose and do the catwalk, I had little preparation for the contest.

When I was chosen as one of the 10 official candidates from among more than 200 applicants in the National Capital Region, I was still preoccupied with some extracurricular activities in college. I was a staff writer for The Varsitarian of the University of Santo Tomas and although I had already graduated in April, we still had tasks to do until June.

I went through the screenings with only light makeup on (I did mine) and with my straight hair down. It was nothing compared to what the others did to themselves. I wanted to be chosen simply as I am.

We were an hour early for the final screening, so my mother and I decided to have breakfast in a restaurant near GMA Network Center in Quezon City. As we were leaving, I fell down the stairs of the restaurant. I was red not only with embarrassment but also with blood from the bruises on my knees. I tried to compose myself but tears fell uncontrollably, smudging my mascara and ruining my makeup. I felt hopeless.

I was inconsolable despite my mother's frantic efforts to reassure me. I wanted to kick myself with my four-inch stiletto heels. My eldest sister, whom my mother called on the phone, chided me for losing my composure. After a brief sermon, she told me to go on with the screening and leave everything to God.

We reached GMA 30 minutes later than schedule but the screening had not started yet. I hastily cleaned up my wounds with alcohol and retouched my makeup. With smiles, poise and wit, I finished the screening.

A few days later, I was informed that I had made it to the the pageant!

The final screening only made up a fraction of the whole mental, emotional and physical exercise. We were 24 official candidates from all over the country, meaning I had to relate with 23 different personalities for at least a month. Some were easygoing and nonchalant, others were solemn and profound and the rest were fiercely determined to win.

The activities that followed the pageant were a test of stamina. We traveled from one province to another, riding buses and ships or flying in helicopters. There were endless make-up sessions, video shoots, pictorials, rehearsals, fashion shows, press conferences, dinners with government officials and prominent personalities and festivals to be attended. There was an activity scheduled every hour, and sleep became a luxury we rarely enjoyed. We would come back to our hotel late at night only to wake up as early as 5:00 a.m. the next day.

The toughest part of the pageant was the mental game. During our trips, we met town folks who were all warm and welcoming. Being with them made me feel close to home. I took every chance I could get to mingle with them, get their insights and share mine. But some people took this as my way of showing off. I heard some nasty comments about my capabilities. I felt left out intentionally. My self-esteem plummeted and I was close to losing hope. I only found solace in prayer.

Back in Manila, I learned to accept the complexities of a pageant. I recognized that it was part of human nature to forge alliances. But while I noted that people banded together to promote their mutual interests, everyone did so with a personal motive. There was competition even among the closest of friends. Each candidate vied for attention, to gain favor from others. No matter how much a candidate tried to enjoy the lifestyle of a celebrity, she could never forget that she had to stand out from the rest.

Since each one had her flaws, there were times when we felt insecure and unsure of how we looked and worried ourselves sick about other people's perception of us. One had to draw from her inner strength to get through all of it with grace and composure.

I was grateful for my family, relatives and friends' support. They sent me their good wishes through text messages and phone calls. They also visited me at the hotel. I learned that my parents' fellow members in Couples for Christ and my grandmother's fellow parishioners were praying for me every night. They told me to keep believing in myself.

It must have been God's will to have me in the Mutya ng Pilipinas. And he helped me overcome all the troubles I encountered during the screenings. My family, relatives and friends were united in prayer because of the pageant. thought of the people whom I met in the provinces and how in small ways we have touched each other's lives. My faith boosted my morale and taught me to appreciate the things God has given me: good friends, family and the gift of life.

With newfound confidence, I was prepared to face anything. The night before the pre-pageant, I practiced alone in our room how to walk and project myself. The pre-pageant was the most critical part since 90 percent of our total score would be based on it. It actually determined who would be the top 10 candidates.

During the pre-pageant, I felt beautiful inside. Beauty for me was a state of mind. I believed that my optimistic aura would elicit a positive response from other people. I steered clear of negative thoughts and only thought of the happy moments I had with my loved ones. This helped me give my best smile. I let my mind control my body and concentrated on every word I uttered, every move I made.

I must say that I emerged a better person from my experiences in the pageant. Taking part in the Mutya ng Pilipinas was a blessing. I got to travel and learn more about my country, meet interesting people, build friendships, and above all know myself better.

During the pageant last June 8, I was voted by the judges as second runner-up in addition to being picked as Ms People's Choice. There were a bonus after all the blessings God gave me.

Frances Margaret H. Arreza, 20, is a journalism graduate of the University of Santo Tomas. She will represent the country at the 7th Ms Tourism International Pageant in Malaysia this December.

LETTERS

Temporary respite from high power rates

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of lowering electric bills by reducing the purchased power adjustment (PPA) is but a temporary respite.

Already, the National Power Corp. is asking the Energy Regulatory Commission to include the Casecnan Multi-purpose Project in its stranded cost recovery through the fuel and purchased power cost adjustment (FPCA). The FPCA is a major component of the PPA that the electricity consumers pay every month and which makes our electricity rates one of the most expensive in Asia.

The FDC believes that the petition is bereft of legal basis. The deadline set by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act to include contracts for stranded cost recovery already lapsed on Dec. 31, 2000.

We opposed the Napocor petition because the Casecnan contract is grossly disadvantageous and onerous, hence consumers should not be made to pay for the cost of the contract. The FDC, in fact, is calling for the cancellation of the onerous contract.

When Casecnan started commercial operations in December 2001, it delivered only a monthly average of 65 percent of the agreed 19 million kilowatt-hour (kWh) per month. Despite the shortfall, the National Power Corp. still pays for the full cost at 16.50 US cents or P8.42 per kWh.

Taxpayers, on the other hand, will be forced to pay the P2.4 billion in government guarantees to finance the underperformance of the Casecnan Multi-purpose Project.

Casecnan is just one of the numerous Independent Power Producer (IPP) contracts found to be disadvantageous to the government, as the project is grossly overpriced. Aside from the grave fiscal consequences, it poses grave social implications to thousands of residents in the affected areas.

The FDC also opposes a similar petition to include the PPA of the CBK-Impsa power project to its FPCA. The approval of the CBK-Impsa contract and the subsequent supplemental agreement are surrounded with serious legal and procedural infirmities that cast grave doubts about their validity. These infirmities have fiscal implications on the government that the Napocor wants to pass on to consumers.

We call on the government to suspend PPA payments until all onerous IPP contracts are rescinded. Filipinos must no longer be made to pay for the costs of these onerous and grossly disadvantageous contracts, whether as consumers or as taxpayers.

—LIDY NACPIL, secretary general,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St., Central District, QC

Wrong subtraction

I WOULD just like to point out Rina Jimenez-David's "quick" mathematical lapse in a recent column.

In her piece, she mentioned a TV report she saw about urban poor communities, and expressed amazement at one of the features of the show about a mother of eight children who was only 24 years young. She wrote further: "I made a quick calculation and concluded that if she had given birth to one child a year, she would have started down the road of motherhood when she was just 14!"

Now, I believe that was a calculation done too hurriedly: 24 minus 8 is equal to 16.

Either Ms Jimenez-David was too much affected by the young mother's plight, or INQUIRER's proofreaders are in need of a refresher course in basic Math.

—AMELITO L. SEGARRA JR.,
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

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Hostages and time bombs

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE NATION is again held hostage, our collective spirit slowly being eroded through the classic four D's used by hostage-takers: dread, debilitation, dependency and deprivation.

The first—dread—speaks for itself. We are gripped by fear, a fear made even more intense because the enemy is unseen. We presume we know who the enemy is—Abu Sayyaf and al-Qaida uttered almost in whispers—but there are no faces to put to those names, except for photographs in the media of suspect after suspect being picked up by the police.

There is, certainly, debilitation. Should we do our groceries today? Should we take the bus? The feelings of debilitation relate to dependency. Security guards seem inadequate now, with people wanting the military and their bomb-sniffing dogs. In Congress, Raul Gonzalez filed a bill to give emergency powers to the President. Hey, maybe the national ID system isn't such a bad idea, we tell each other.

But if dread, debilitation and dependency seem to feed on each other, it is because in many ways we are a nation deprived of information, or rather a nation desperately clinging to one source of information.

Sometimes it takes a trip overseas to realize the extent of this deprivation. I was in China last week to speak at a conference on social science and medicine, and in conversations with colleagues from different Asian countries, I was reminded of how we Filipinos tend to be the most slavish in subscribing to the official US government view of the world.

I was still in Manila when the bombs went off in Indonesia. Al-Qaida, Bush proclaimed even as the bombed site in Bali smoldered. Al-Qaida, our government repeated like some refrain in a prayer. Yet most of the Indonesians I talked with urged caution, several questioning the very existence of al-Qaida.

A distinction is made between Islamic and Islamist groups, the former referring to any Muslim organization while the latter is more specific to groups that have transformed Islam into radical political ideologies. My Indonesian colleagues agree there are extremist Islamist groups who want to create theocracies in the region, but have serious doubts about these groups working together as part of an international terrorist network. The groups are disparate, quarreling among themselves in their interpretations of what is "pure" and "fundamental" in Islam.

The so-called Filipino affiliates of al-Qaida, notably the Abu Sayyaf, are viewed with scorn by Indonesian Muslims, seen as insecure little boys who never grew up, trying to shore up their macho images with beheadings and designer sunglasses.

There can be no doubt that Islamist terrorism exists, but to lump the Abu Sayyaf together with the Taleban and the Jemaah Islamiyah and Iraq's Saddam Hussein, as Bush and other US government officials have insinuated, requires a wild stretch of the imagination.

We limit our options when we accept, hook, line and sinker, Bush's view of the world. Even the hunt for the terrorists behind the bombing becomes ludicrous. Two days after the Balintawak bombing incident, I heard a radio report saying a "Muslim-looking" suspect had been identified.

We see how we are held hostage by this powerful mind-set, now believing that our salvation depends on becoming allies with the United States, not realizing that we have in fact become even more vulnerable because of this blind allegiance to our colonial master. We already see signs of this vulnerability, with the bombing of the Philippine consular office in Manado on the same day of the Bali carnage.

It's not just a matter of our foreign policy now being determined by the US government. Even our domestic politics is now affected by Bush's obsession with war. The US State Department declares the National Democratic Front (NDF) an international terrorist group and our government nods in agreement. Peace talks with the NDF and with Muslim secessionist groups have ground to a halt. It's not surprising the New People's Army has launched new offensives, almost as if to scorn both the US and Philippine governments.

There is something to be learned from the incident last Friday at the Quiapo church, when police were called in to check two plastic bags spotted under a pew. It turned out the bags contained food, clothes and personal belongings of a homeless woman in her 70s. The old woman was understandably enraged to find the police had ripped open her bags.

It would have all been another comical incident except that no one has asked why such an old woman has to be homeless, with her worldly belongings fitting into the two plastic bags. No one has asked how she, and thousands of other homeless Filipinos, manage to survive.

The police were wrong when they said the plastic bags were harmless. The plastic bags of the old woman in Quiapo, of the refugees deported from Sabah, of peasants displaced by our many other internal conflicts, all these bags are in a sense dangerous time bombs, ticking away slowly but surely to produce tomorrow's hostages, tomorrow's wars.

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TURKEY
U.K.
DENMARK
SWITZERLAND
USA
ITALY
JORDAN
KENYA
LEBANON
GERMANY
ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BULGARIA
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ITALY
ISO 9001
TÜV CERT
Model MA707PACCD
Retractable Handle
Fixed Handle
Microphone Compartment
Speaker
Speaker Grille
Heat Sink
Tripod (Optional)
FRONT
BACK
Charging Status Indicator
Battery Charger
AC Power Switch
A. Cassette Player
B. Control Panel
C. Receiver Modules
DC Power Switch
Pitch Control
Extension Speaker Socket
DC Input Socket
Charging Status Indicator
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bomb kills 2 Thai cops

Officials say explosion is criminal, not terrorist, act

BANGKOK—A parcel bomb exploded in a Thai provincial government office near Bangkok on Monday, killing two policeman and injuring at least four people, police said.

The government was quick to label the blast a criminal, not a terrorist, act saying it was the result of a personal dispute.

The bomb exploded at 12:20 p.m. while being examined by police in a social security office in Nakhon Pathom, 60 km northwest of the capital, a police officer said by telephone.

One officer was killed instantly and another died of severe wounds in hospital a few hours later.

The officer said police had been called to the office after a member of staff became suspicious about a package. Three of the wounded were police officers.

"It was a grenade put in a cardboard box inside a parcel. We believe the motive may have been some personal conflict," another policeman said by telephone. He declined to elaborate.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said the blast was not a terrorist act.

"Please do not write it in such a way that turns it into a terrorist act . . . it was basically a criminal act by nature, not a terrorist act," Thaksin told reporters.

Interior Minister Wan Muhamad Noor Matha told reporters the blast was not politically motivated.

"This is not linked to international terrorism. It is a criminal act carried out through the postal system . . . the device went off by accident," the minister said.

Defense Minister Thammarak Isarangura said the bomb was motivated by a personal conflict.

Staff at the social security office told a radio station they had received a telephone call from an unidentified man some days ago warning of a bomb.

There has been no recent history of attacks on government offices in central Thailand. *Reuters*

Pakistani girl dies in bazaar blast

ISLAMABAD—A blast in a Pakistani bazaar crowded with shoppers in the country's north-west killed a 10-year-old girl and wounded 20 others, police said Monday.

A bomb wrapped in a plastic bag exploded at the gate of the bazaar in Kamra, a garrison town 70 km northwest of the capital Islamabad, at around 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

The girl was rushed to a local military hospital where she died later of her injuries, Kamra police officer Nasrullah said.

The bomb had been planted in a flower pot near a bicycle stand at the makeshift Sunday bazaar, which was packed with shoppers from nearby villages.

"It was quite powerful, it rattled the area and the bang was heard several kilometers away," Nasrullah said. "Luckily there was no rush at the bicycle stand, which averted heavy casualties."

The wounded, including 19 men and one woman, were being treated in a civilian hospital in the neighboring district of Attock.

"They are improving and their condition is stable," Nasrullah said.

Islamabad police investigators said 450 grams of low intensity explosives was used in the blast, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported. *AFP*

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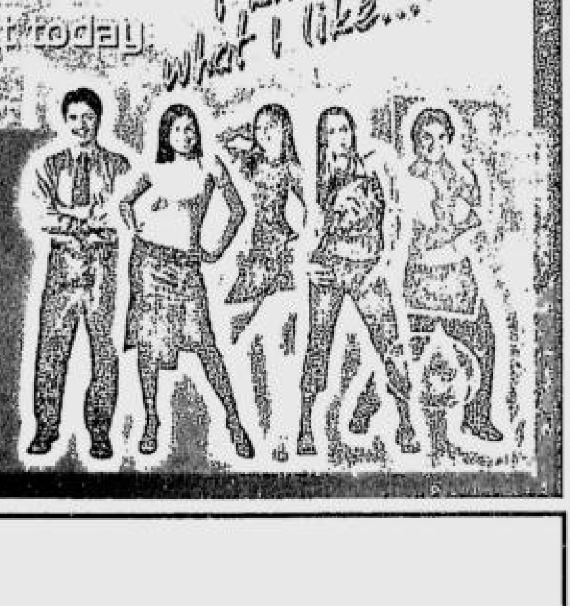
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Panasonic

Police appeal to sniper who left message at crime scene

WASHINGTON—The mystery surrounding a deadly sniper in the Washington area deepened Monday as police waited for a call from the gunman, after a message and phone number were found at the scene of the latest shooting.

Police chief Charles Moose, head of the local investigation, said a message had been left at an Ashland, Virginia restuarant where a 37-year-old man was seriously wounded on Saturday.

"To the person that left us a message at the Ponderosa last night: You gave us a telephone number. We do want to talk to you. Call us at the number you provided. Thank you," he told reporters.

Investigators are trying to determine if the shooting is linked to the other attacks, in which nine people have been shot dead and two wounded since Oct. 2.

Some veteran investigators suggested the elusive sniper might now be trying to make contact to negotiate his surrender.

A police official who asked not to be named said the message was being treated by Moose and his team with utmost secrecy and that lower-ranking investigators did not know its exact contents.

"We don't know whether it has come from an intermediary of the bad guy," the official said.

The official said Moose believed it was very important that the media carry his statement exactly the way he phrased it, without any alterations.

Experts from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms examined Monday a crucial piece of evidence from the Ashland shooting that they believe would allow them to determine whether the crime was linked to the sniper attacks.

During surgery late Sunday, a bullet was removed from the body of the victim, who remained in critical condition after being shot in Ashland, 150 km outside Washington.

"Surgeons have been able to successfully remove the bullet, and it's now in the hands of law enforcement," hospital spokesperson Joe Kuttenkuler said in a telephone interview, adding that the patient, who had already undergone a three-hour operation on Saturday, might require more medical intervention.

According to Kuttenkuler, the bullet sliced through his spleen, which had to be completely removed, and ravaged his pancreas and stomach.

The pancreas had to be partially removed during one of the two operations.

"He has a lengthy recovery ahead of him," Kuttenkuler said. The identity of the victim has yet to be released. *AFP*

Pyongyang open to talks on nuke issue, says S. Korea

SEOUL—North Korea expressed willingness Monday to resolve concerns over its nuclear weapons program through dialogue, South Korean officials said. But the United States has cast North Korea's nuclear program as a non-negotiable issue, saying it must be dismantled immediately.

Kim Yong-nam, the North's ceremonial head of state, made the remarks about North Korean willingness in a meeting with South Korean delegates in Pyongyang, the North's capital, according to South Korean pool reports.

Kim's remarks were the North's first official response to a US announcement last week that the communist country had admitted to having a nuclear weapons program in violation of international agreements.

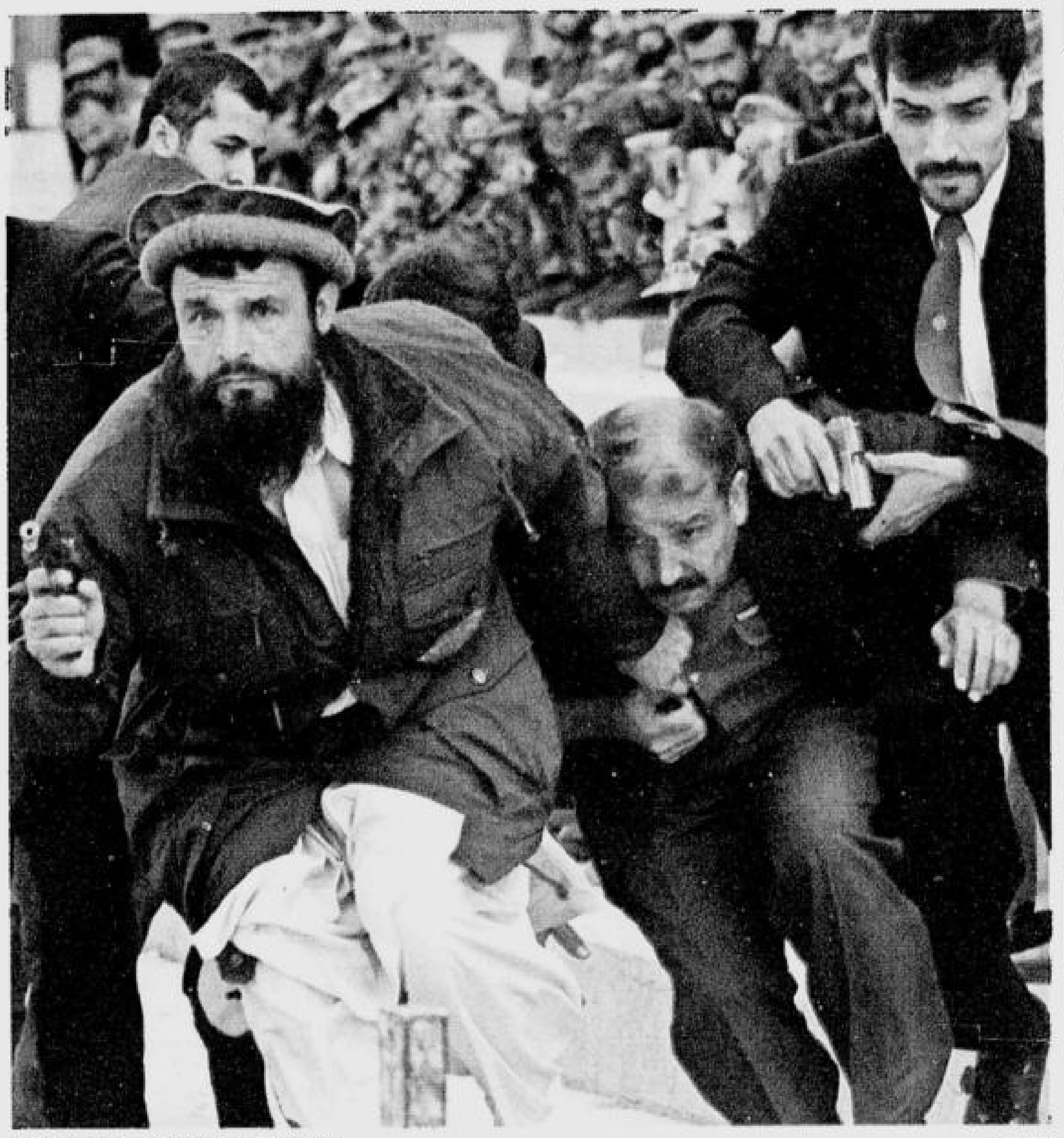
"We consider the recent situation seriously," pool reports quoted Kim as telling the chief South Korean delegate, Jeong Se-hyun. "If the United States is willing to withdraw its hostile policy toward the North, the North also is ready to resolve security concerns through dialogue."

The comments were reported by South Korean journalists sent to cover the three-day, inter-Korean talks, which opened Sunday. No foreign reporters were allowed to cover the talks.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, whose policy of engaging North Korea is under severe pressure because of the revelation about the nuclear program, said the South's national security was at stake.

"The danger of North Korea's nuclear weapons development and other weapons of mass destruction should be eliminated completely," Kim said in Seoul.

The meeting with Kim Yong Nam took place before the two sides reconvened another round of talks. After receiving five South Korean delegates as a group, the leader met the chief South Korean delegate privately for 50 minutes, said the pool reports. *AP*



AFGHAN BODYGUARDS REUTERS

Newly trained Afghan bodyguards demonstrate their skills in Kabul on Oct. 21. About 100 bodyguards for ministers and VIPs on Monday graduated after being trained by the Italian Army as part of an ongoing process to improve security infrastructure within the capital.

Moderate Muslims urge crackdown on extremists

JAKARTA—Indonesia's moderate Muslim organizations demanded Monday that authorities crack down against religious extremists, who they said represent a fringe minority among the country's 170 million Muslims.

Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid said he believed that Abu Bakar Bashir, the cleric believed to be the leader of a group suspected in last week's Bali bombing, should have been arrested long ago.

"I believe that Bashir is a terrorist," Wahid said in a radio interview.

Wahid, who was replaced as head of state by Megawati Sukarnoputri last year, has been sharply critical of her administration's cautious approach toward radicals.

Wahid's organization, Nahdlatul Ulama—whose 40 million members make it the world's largest Muslim grouping—and the 30-million member Muhammadiyah both urged the government to act more decisively against small groups of militants such as Jemaah Islamiyah, which is suspected in the Oct. 12 nightclub bombing in Bali that killed more than 180 people and injured 300.

Their leaderships say that groups like Jemaah Islamiyah or Laskar Jihad—a recently disbanded paramilitary gang blamed for waging a religious war against the Christian minority in the Maluku islands—are a tiny minority in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation.

Megawati has already signed an emergency decree that allows terrorist suspects to be detained for up to six months without charge, but religious moderates have called for even tougher anti-terrorist legislation. *AP*

Indonesia on alert for more attacks

JAKARTA—Indonesia has heightened security nationwide amid fresh threats of terror attacks on key economic infrastructures following the Bali bombing tragedy, police said Monday.

The increased security alert comes as intelligence reports point to further terrorist activity after the Oct. 12 night of horror in Bali where more than 180 people were killed.

There are also fears the arrest of a radical Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, who is undergoing medical treatment in hospital, could fuel a strong backlash in the world's largest Muslim population.

"Our intelligence has indicated there is a possibility of attacks. The police have mobilized armed personnel to guard electricity, water, airport and other key economic infrastructures," police spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edward Aritonang said. "We have upgraded security status to alert. We are prepared to handle any eventualities."

Bashir, 64, who has not been named as a suspect in the Bali bombing, is wanted for questioning over a series of church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000.

Aritonang said the general security situation in Indonesia was under control but the Bali bombing had created security fears, especially among foreigners.

On Sunday, Australia issued its fourth travel warning on Indonesia in three days, telling visitors to avoid historical and cultural locations for fear of terrorist attacks.

Australians have been told to defer all non-essential travel within Indonesia and to avoid commercial and public places frequented by Westerners, including schools, places of worship, outdoor recreation events and tourist areas.

In hazy Jakarta, where police have been plagued by false threats, spokesperson Anton Bahrul Alam said every telephone call was relentlessly checked.

"We have increased security guards at commercial centers, vital installations, transportation terminals and places of high public concentrations," he said.

"We have and will check every bomb threat made. We will deploy our anti-bomb squads to comb the concerned buildings for explosives."

In recent days, the Jakarta Stock Exchange building and several schools received bomb threats which turned out to be false alarms, Alam said.

Police have deployed 120 additional personnel at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta international airport, and armed policemen are conducting patrols within the airport complex, a security official.

At Medan, on Sumatra island, traffic came to a standstill on the road to the local airport Sunday after police received a call saying there was a car laden with explosives on the route.

Radio reports said all vehicles and their occupants had to undergo a strict police search, but no explosives were found.

The state Antara news agency said Monday that security had been tightened at the Hang Nadim airport on Indonesia's Batam island, a popular retreat for residents of nearby Singapore.

Vehicles heading into the airport facility must pass through bomb detectors, with all passengers and cars subjected to stringent police checks, it said.

Hotels and entertainment spots in Batam had deployed additional plainclothesmen and uniformed security personnel.

Anonymous bomb threats have also surged in Malang, East Java, with the provincial parliament building and a primary school among the named targets.

Aritonang appealed to the public to remain calm and urged them to report any suspicious activity or vehicles. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

Joy over homecoming marred

TOKYO—With just a week left until they were expected to return to the country that abducted them a quarter century ago, questions remained Monday over when—and if—five Japanese kidnapped by North Korean spies would be allowed to come home to stay. As the five spent a fifth day attending class reunions and family functions in their hometowns, a Tokyo-based newspaper reported the government had reached a basic agreement with North Korea for them to return permanently. The report, in the Mainichi, a major daily, said the five would be allowed to return to Japan for good, and with their children, as early as next month. But the brother of one of the abductees said a broad agreement was not enough. He demanded the North promise a specific date for the five and their children to return, should they choose to do so. *AP*

3 extra Harry Potter titles

LONDON—Three extra Harry Potter titles registered at the UK Patent Office could mean an unexpected treat is in store for fans of the schoolboy wizard, the Scotsman newspaper said on Monday. Author J.K. Rowling has always maintained that the best-selling series would end with the seventh book. Last month she said she was near completing the long-awaited fifth instalment, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." But the Scotsman reported that US film studio Warner Brothers, which releases its second Harry Potter film next month, has registered three more Harry Potter titles as trademarks, raising the possibility of an eighth volume. A Reuters search of the UK Patent Office trademark database confirmed the extra titles as "Harry Potter and the Alchemist's Cell," "Harry Potter and the Chariots of Light" and "Harry Potter and the Pyramids of Furmat." It is unclear whether the extra titles do indicate plans for an eighth volume or whether they were registered as possible alternative names for the remaining Potter books. *Reuters*

Churchill greatest Briton ever

LONDON—Winston Churchill, the British World War II leader who guided the nation through the "darkest hour," is tipped to be voted the greatest Briton ever, just ahead of William Shakespeare and well above John Lennon. "We make Churchill our favorite at 2/1 because he crosses all political divides and he was a bastion of British spirit through the war," betting firm Ladbrokes said as the BBC began on Sunday airing a series on the search for the top Briton. Churchill, the soldier, writer and politician who switched political parties twice and eventually led the country's coalition government from 1940 to 1945, topped the shortlist of 10 from whom the greatest Briton will be chosen in coming weeks. The elite group were selected from a BBC phone and Internet poll involving more than 30,000 Britons. They hail from the 16th century to the modern day and include scientists, royals and military figures. *Reuters*

Malaysia insists it's safe from terrorists

KUALA LUMPUR—With Southeast Asian nations fearing economic fallout from terror bombings in Indonesia and the Philippines, one of the wealthiest, Malaysia, fought hard on several fronts Monday to clear its name of any taint of terrorism.

The extremely sensitive Muslim government, struggling to preserve Malaysia's image as a safe and rapidly developing country in a troubled region, criticized the author of a book allegedly linking the ruling coalition to the al-Qaida terror network; an international magazine that incorrectly identified Malaysia as a target of bombings; and the Australian government, which cancelled events in Malaysia over terror fears.

The book, Inside al-Qaida: Global Network of Terror, disappeared from the shelves of major bookstores after the government said it was the basis of a "totally untruthful and offensive" UN Security Council report.

The report allegedly links Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling National Front to Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization through the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the Philippines and the government has demanded its withdrawal.

But the author of the book, Sri Lankan academic Rohan Gunaratna, said Monday that he had been unjustly accused.,

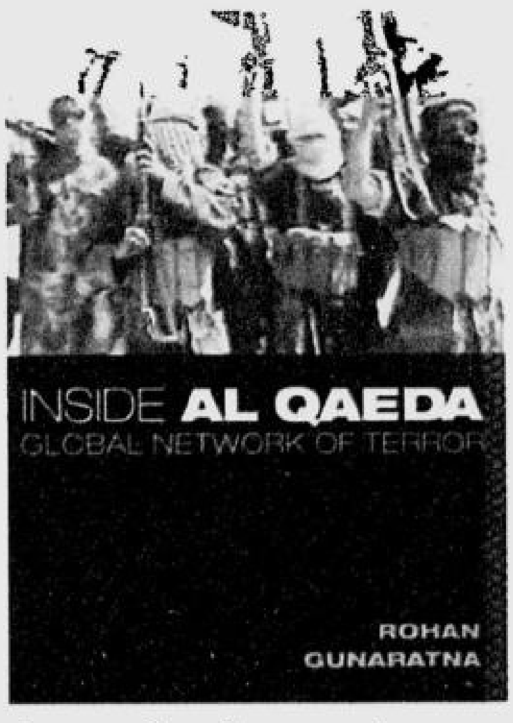
"Nowhere in my book have I linked al-Qaida to Barisan National (the National Front)," he said.

Gunaratna, who is an analyst with the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore, admitted, however, that he did say the MILF "maintains some links with individuals in Barisan National."

"The reference is based on a foreign government document and I have told the Malaysians I will be happy to provide them with a copy of the document," he said, declining to name the foreign government.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who first raised the issue, said Monday that home ministry officials were studying the book but that it had not yet been officially banned.

The government is considering legal action against Gunaratna. *AFP*



2 killed, 8 hurt in Australian school shooting

MELBOURNE, Australia—A man armed with several handguns opened fire at a university in the southern city of Melbourne on Monday, killing two people and wounding eight others, police said.

The man, in his mid-30s and of Asian appearance, was tackled to the ground by several students after he opened fire in a classroom at Monash University in southeastern Melbourne, police said.

He was later arrested by police.

"He was in the possession of a number of handguns," police Supt. Trevor Parks said. "He went into a classroom. It would appear there has been indiscriminate shooting following that."

Police did not say what the motive appeared to be for the killings.

He said two Asian men in their early 20s were killed and five others were hospitalized, one with serious injuries to the stomach. Another three people were taken to the nearby Monash Medical Center with minor injuries.

Monash University vice chancellor Peter Darvall praised the actions of the "brave souls" who wrestled the gun off the attacker. He said students and staff were understandably distressed.

"All I can say is our university is as safe or unsafe as any other part of the community," he said.

Ambulance officials said paramedics were called to the campus just before 11:30 a.m.

Paramedics at the scene initially discovered two dead people and two seriously injured when they arrived on the sixth floor of the Menzies Building at the campus, an ambulance spokesperson said on usual condition of anonymity.

She said the man shot in the stomach was airlifted to a hospital. Another person had been shot in the leg and arm, she added.

The other injured received injuries to the face and upper body, the spokesperson said. *AP*

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Messages

It is my great pleasure to greet the organizers and participants of the 8th National Occupational Safety and Health Congress.

John Michell, an advocate of workers' rights once wrote, "while the bread of the laborer is earned in the sweat of his brow, it is eaten in the peril of his life." Indeed, the threat of life and limb at work has plagued every worker since the early stages of industrialization.

The theme of the Congress "Globalization and OSH: A Call for Inclusion not Exclusion" could not have been more appropriate. The emergence of new technologies and liberalization of trade has opened doors for new and better economic opportunities. While globalization has encouraged corporate consolidation, mergers and creation of vast conglomerates it has often marginalized smaller, owner-operated enterprises resulting in retrenchments and closures. The expansion of the informal sector and the increase of subcontracting and other forms of flexibilization, have in many instances compromised the safety and health of workers.

This Congress provides a challenge for all of us to further develop and formulate strategies that strengthen the delivery of occupational safety and health services to all sectors, especially to those who are the most vulnerable and often marginalized like child laborers, women, migrant workers, and those toiling in the informal sector. It is my fervent hope that all stakeholders will continue to work together towards improving the health and safety of all workers to achieve Decent Work and OSH for all.

Thank you and Mabuhay!

(Sgd)
PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor & Employment

I extend my congratulations to the Occupational Safety and Health Center(OSHC) for organizing the 8th National Occupational Safety and Health (NOSH) Congress, with the theme of "Globalization and Occupational Safety and Health: A Call for Inclusion not Exclusion".

The vulnerable and marginalized workers in the informal sector, or about 50 percent of total employment are indeed experiencing the downside of globalization. Hazardous and sub-standard working conditions persist in informal sector workplaces. Their dignity as worker and citizen is constantly called in question. I therefore welcome these initiatives to design strategies and programmes that restore their fundamental workers' rights and make them productive members of society. We must bring to bear our store of knowledge toward addressing the concern of informal workers. The magnitude of the task is daunting but progress can be made through our collective effort. This is what the congress is all about.

Let me say here that the 8th NOSH is timely, as we have just completed the preparation for the Informal Sector program as well as the Time-bound Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Again, congratulations to the Occupational Safety and Health Center and I hope for the success of the 8th NOSH Congress.

(Sgd)
LUCITA S. LAZO
Undersecretary
Department of Labor and Employment

To colleagues and advocates in occupational safety and health:

Globalization is an old phenomenon. Social scientists consider it as a logical development that started when man first dreamed of going around the world. It is said that, globalization has started way before Columbus discovered the New World.

Today, globalization is a complex process that stress the global economy. The advantages of globalization are indeed, innumerable:
The spread of instant global communications, the rapid growth of international trade, global capital markets and foreign investment, the sharing of knowledge, information and technology and the emergence of forms of corporation.

However, globalization has led to the exploitation of labor employment of minors or the denial of fundamental rights to self-organization and association in developing countries which profit from cheap labor.

This year's theme "Globalization and Occupational Safety and Health: A Call for Inclusion Not Exclusion" emphasizes the importance of providing effective OSH services particularly to workers who are vulnerable such as those in the informal sector, the women, child laborers, and migrant workers are the most adversely affected. The Congress will also deliberate on ways and means for improving working conditions, enhancing productivity and achieving industrial harmony. We hope that this Congress will pave the way for greater synergy of initiatives by all concerned sectors including government, management, labor, non-governmental organizations and the academe

(Sgd)
DR. DULCE P. ESTRELLA-GUST
Executive Director
Occupational Safety and Health Center

Join the 8th National Occupational Safety and Health Congress

Theme: "Globalization and Occupational Safety and Health:
A Call for Inclusion not Exclusion"

October 23-24, 2002
OSHC Complex, North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

The National Occupational Safety and Health Congress is a biennial activity spearheaded by the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), of the Department of Labor and Employment. Now on its 8th year, the NOSH Congress aims to promote work safety and health of clients and concerned sectors of government, management, labor, non-governmental organizations, and the academe. It also serves as a vehicle to improve working conditions and enhance productivity and industrial harmony.

The 8th National Congress is being held in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

PROGRAM

DAY 1 (October 23, 2002).

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
	Invocation
	National Anthem
Welcome Remarks	**Usec. Lucita S. Lazo** Undersecretary for Informal Sector and Returning Migrant Workers Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Messages	**•Hon. Jose D. Lina, Jr.** Secretary Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
	•Mr. Werner Blenk Director International Labour Office (ILO), Manila
	•Dr. Heinz Bongartz Resident Representative Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
	•Mr. Democrito Mendoza President Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)
	•Atty. Miguel B. Varela Chairman Employers Confederation of the Phils. (ECOP)
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	**Dr. Dulce P. Estrella-Gust** Executive Director Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC)
Keynote Speaker	**Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas** Secretary Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
10:00- 10:15 AM	
Inauguration of Exhibits	**Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas**

WATCH OUT FOR THE:
1.Photo Exhibit on the Informal Sector
2.Booths of Exhibitors on OSH

PRE-CONGRESS ACTIVITY

An On-the-Spot Painting Contest was conducted last October 5, 2002 at the OSHC Complex. Students of art school and universities joined the competition. Following are the winners of the on-the-spot painting contest:

1st place:	**GLENNELLE D. TARAYA-U.S.T.**
2nd Place:	**SAMUEL D. BULAGA-T.U.P.**
3rd Place:	**RYAN R. JARA-T.U.P.**

Congratulations!

PAPER PRESENTATION

- Globalization: Occupational Safety and Health and Decent Work
- Occupational Safety and Health International Standards in ILO/ADB RETA Project
- Preventive OSH and the Philippine Health Insurance
- Pregnancy Outcome Among Women in Farming in Nueva Ecija
- Health Effects of Organophosphate Exposure among Farmers in Bugulas and Bauko, CAR
- Low-Back Pain in Manufacturing Work: Risk Factors and Anthropometric Measurements
- Health and Well-Being of Female Workers in Shift Work
- Use of Illegal Fishing Methods in Balayan Bay:
- Applicability of OSH Standards and Ergonomics for Social Responsibility in the Era of Globalization
- Assessment of the Workstation Design and Job Demands of the UP-Manila, College of Allied Medical Professions (UP-CAMP) Students and Employees
- Occupational Safety and Health Concerns of Working Children in the Entertainment Industry
- **OSH Problems, Vulnerable Sector, Emerging OSH Problems and Concerns, Work-Related Illnesses and Injuries**
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OSHC

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Anti-Red tribe angers rebels

CARAGA, Davao Oriental—New People's Army rebels have vented their ire on anti-communist tribal people here, executing at least 18 Mandayas since January, a ranking tribal leader said.

Coper Banugan, a Mandaya tribal leader, said the rebels' latest victim was Rane Banugan, a relative of his.

Banugan, a resident of Barangay San Antonio, was killed early this month as the *pangayao* or tribal war waged by the Mandaya natives against the rebels entered its first year.

"We, the tribal leaders, are being hunted down one by one by the heavily armed NPA rebels because of our declaration of tribal war against them," Banugan said.

Because of the summary executions, the Mandayas have renewed their call to the provincial government to provide them firearms.

But Alejandro Aquino, provincial legal officer, said as in the past, the request was turned down by Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil.

Aquino, who also serves as *dangyaan* or adviser to the Mandayas, said Palma Gil had maintained that providing arms to civilians would be illegal.

Despite their failure to acquire government-issued firearms, the natives said they would continue their fight.

Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, police provincial director, said the Mandayas have apparently found an easier way to acquire weapons against the NPA.

"I think they are now mass-producing their own firearms. They are well-capable of mass-producing home-made shotguns, which they are using right now against the NPA," Cuy told the INQUIRER.

In Compostela Valley, communist rebels have also picked on civilians, according to the military.

Major Agane Adriatico, commander of the military's Civil Relations Group in Southern Mindanao, said the rebels' recent atrocity occurred on Thursday morning in Compostela town.

Adriatico said a fiesta reveler was killed while a militiaman was wounded when NPA rebels opened fire at a crowd in Barangay Magayon while residents were celebrating their fiesta.

He said because of the atrocities, the military was stepping up its campaign against the insurgents. *Ferdinand Zuasola with reports from Anthony Allada and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LANZONES FEAST

RYAN LIM

Camuiguin province celebrates the Lanzones Festival with colorful parades around Mambajao, the provincial capital.

Drivers strike freezes Iloilo

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—About 90 percent of public transport in this city was paralyzed yesterday after public utility vehicle drivers stopped plying their routes to protest the recent series of oil price increases.

Nick Dalisay, vice president of the Iloilo City Alliance of Drivers Association (Icada), said 99 percent of Icada's 6,000 members joined the strike.

The Icada is composed of 19 associations of jeepney operators and drivers in the city.

The strike started midnight Monday but its effects were felt late morning yesterday when drivers who earlier plied their routes stayed off from the streets. The strike would be lifted midnight today.

Aside from reports of harassment of drivers who refused to join the strike in La Paz District, the strike was peaceful.

The number of jeeps plying routes outside the city was also scarce despite an earlier announcement of the Federation of Iloilo Drivers Association (Fida) that it would not join the strike.

The Fida is an association of jeepney operators and drivers in the province's 42 towns and one city.

Jun Abellon, spokesperson of the Pinagisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston), said at least 80 percent of jeepneys plying routes outside the city, taxicabs and tricycles also stayed off the streets.

Transportation to other provinces on Panay Island remained normal. But hundreds bound for Jordan town, Guimaras were stranded after ferryboat operators joined the strike.

Classes in elementary and high school levels were suspended in most public and private schools in the city. Stores and malls were open but customers were few.

Government offices remained open but were run by a skeletal force. The city government had to fetch city hall employees from the public plazas of the city's six districts using dump trucks.

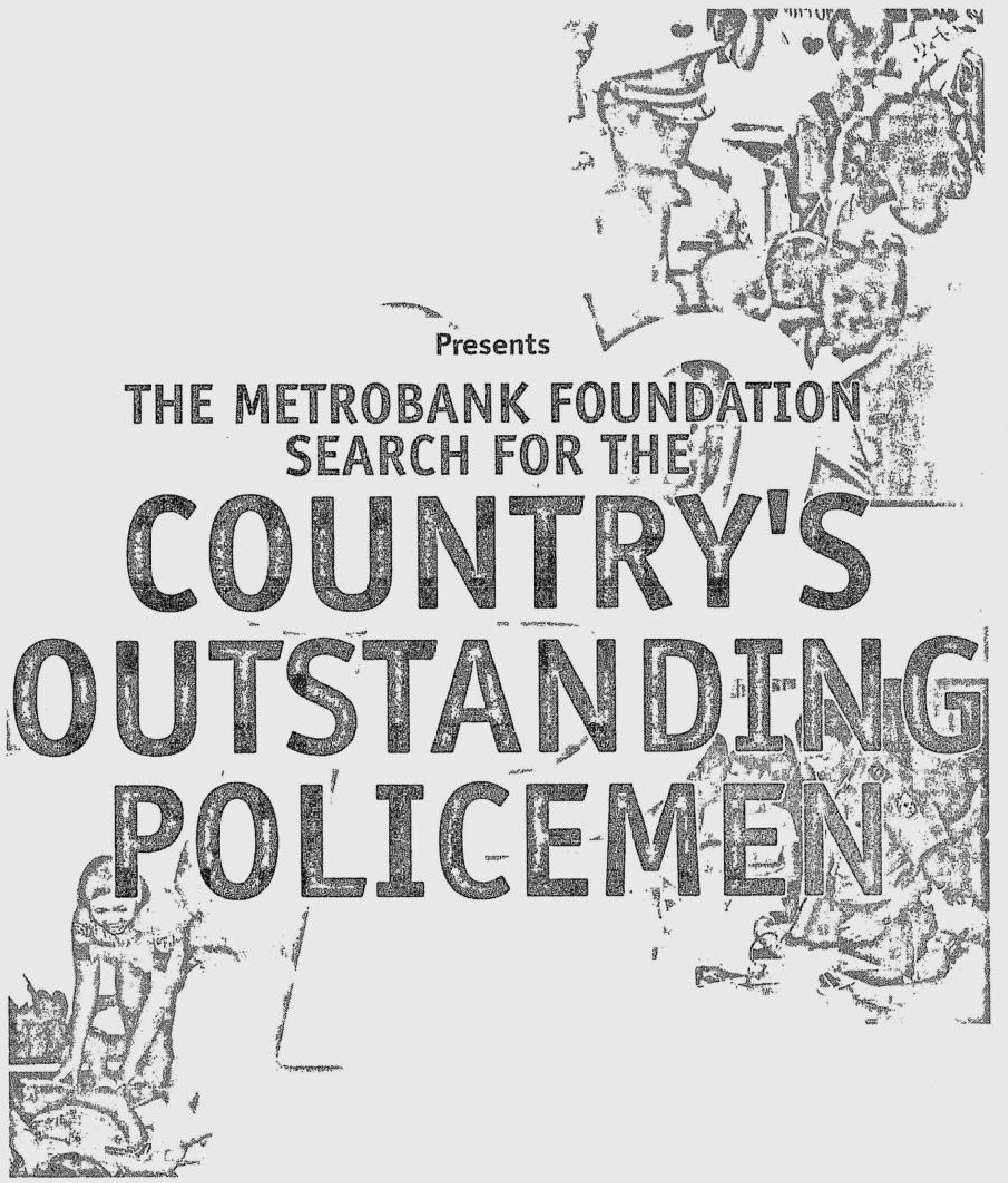
Hundreds of members of militant organizations allied with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) put up protest centers in main intersections in the city and called on motorists to join the strike.

They later held a protest rally at the grounds of the Rotary Amphitheater.

"We hope that concerned government officials will heed our call for a rollback in oil prices or a one peso increase in jeepney fare," said Dalisay in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The transport groups said oil prices have risen seven times since May, eroding the net income of drivers who earn an average of P200 daily. They claimed that the increase, which reached P2.31 per liter, reduced the monthly income of drivers by P1,155.

Icada and Piston were also opposing the "excessive" fines and fees imposed for violations of the Seat Belt Act and other traffic rules and the high costs of drug testing for drivers.



ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MANILA EAST
In cooperation with THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

Presents

THE METROBANK FOUNDATION SEARCH FOR THE COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING POLICEMEN

Police work is an essential community service and an indispensable element of nation building. To maintain peace and order and effectively enforce the law, our men and women in uniform need the support and cooperation of the public. In recognition of this crucial partnership, the **ONE PNP Program** of the Philippine National Police highlights **Neighborhood Participation**, in addition to **Organizational Reform and Education and Training**, in its effort to enhance the capability of the police force to perform its mandate.

In support of this thrust, the search for the **Country's Outstanding Policemen (COP)**, a joint project of the Rotary Club of New Manila East and the Metrobank Foundation, Inc., aims to honor outstanding law enforcers who have successfully maximize community involvement in the performance of their tasks. Implemented in cooperation with the Philippine National Police, **the awards will be conferred on four commissioned officers, four male non-commissioned officers and two female non-commissioned officers. Each of the winners will receive P 100,000 and a trophy.**

Nomination forms are now available in all Metrobank branches nationwide. **Deadline for nominations is on December 7, 2002.** For inquiries, please call up the search secretariat at 844-1744.

GOV'T FIGURES

Mayor says veggie entry into RP under-reported

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Mayor Nestor Fongwan said the Department of Agriculture's figures on the importation and smuggling of semi-temperate vegetables into the country are just a third of the actual volume that find their way into local markets.

Fongwan said three La Trinidad councilors, who are members of a task force formed to check on the smuggling of semi-temperate vegetables, reported that the volume of vegetables illegally imported from July to Oct. 15 this year already reached 897,000 kilograms.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the total volume of vegetable imports amounted to 302,405 kg, a third of what the task force has reported.

Although confirming that there was smuggling of vegetables like carrots, broccoli, lettuce, cabbages and potatoes, Montemayor said the volume of smuggled vegetables was small and amounted to only 0.17 percent of the total vegetable demand of the country.

"But how about those unreported or misdeclared in ports?" Fongwan asked during the protest-rally of about 200 vegetable traders and farmers at the La Trinidad trading post on Wednesday. "What about those that entered our ports without paying custom levies and tariffs?"

Smuggling

He said members of the anti-vegetable smuggling task force confiscated 248 boxes of vegetables worth P200,000 and six container vans worth P5.5 million of smuggled vegetables in their operations.

He also said four container vans were misdeclared as shipment containing Ponkan oranges although they actually contained onions and garlic bulbs from Taiwan and China worth P3 million.

Montemayor said: "Based on our ocular inspection of wholesale markets in Divisoria and Balintawak, we had validated the claim that Benguet vegetables are indeed experiencing reduced trading movement."

He also discovered that imported vegetables without the necessary quarantine permits from Taiwan and China and labeled "To Japan" are being sold in retail stalls at lower prices than those of locally produced vegetables.

"A review of the DA-BPI (Bureau of Plant Industry) quarantine records on quarantine import permit issuance indicates that a small volume of vegetables for July and August had been sourced (sic) from Australia, The Netherlands and China," Montemayor said.

But Fongwan said the DA already issued 103 permits for importation from August to Oct. 15.

The task force also charged five firms, all based in Binondo, Manila, with violation of the import laws.

Montemayor's letter, which was dated Aug. 20 and was only made public this week, also said imported vegetables were actually sold cheaper than those coming from Benguet.

Cheaper

He said imported vegetables sell from P16 to P20 per kg compared with the locally produced vegetables that cost from P35 to P40 a kg.

But price estimates in Baguio City markets during that period showed that prices actually plunged for carrots, cabbages and potatoes.

Carrots were selling for as low as P5 a kg in mid-August and P15 to P20 a kg for cabbages and potatoes.

Vegetable farmers in Benguet are protesting the continued importation of vegetables, saying this was adversely affecting their income.

Earlier, Sen. Manuel Villar vowed to investigate the importation and smuggling of temperate vegetables, which have brought multi-million-peso losses to Igorot farmers and traders.

The vegetable industry crisis now affecting some 250,000 farmers in Benguet and Mt. Province deserves a Senate inquiry, said Villar, vice chair of the Senate agriculture committee. *Frank Cimatu, Maurice Malanes and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

A DRINKING TRADITION JOHNNY VILLENA
The industry of making coconut wine takes center stage, with parade participants in body paint carrying samples of the wine in bamboo and earthen containers, during the recent Kasanggayahan Festival in Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

RP 'bangus' invading China, says De Venecia

DAGUPAN CITY—China's vegetables may be invading the country, but the Philippine *bangus* (milkfish) is making an invasion of China, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia said the Chinese "have been convinced" to eat *bangus* and are now buying processed *bangus* belly. He said Chinese businessmen import *bangus* and use these as ingredients in fish balls and noodle dishes.

The Speaker was here on Saturday to lead the groundbreaking ceremony of the Phil-Bangus Development Program facilities at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center.

The facilities cost P20 million, funded by P10 million each from the Department of Agriculture and from De Venecia's pork barrel.

De Venecia said Philippine *bangus* fry would soon be exported to China and this would require a wide scale production of fry in the country.

"There are 1.3 billion Chinese so that's a very big market for our *bangus*," he said.

He said while the Philippines was the first Asian country to culture *bangus*, it has been overtaken by other countries like Indonesia and Taiwan in fry production.

"But with these facilities, we will try to catch up," he said.

Aside from its central hatchery here, the BFAR is establishing satellite hatcheries in its centers in Albay, Bohol and Zamboanga del Norte. It will also put up municipal hatcheries in Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Occidental Mindoro, Eastern Samar, Zambales and Zamboanga del Norte.

The satellite centers can buy fry from the Dagupan center at a price lower than the prevailing market price, BFAR center chief Westly Rosario said.

The Dagupan BFAR center, he said, can produce 208 million fry a year.

"We expect to save $1.2 million from fry importation," she said. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Man who took on new identity held for 18-year-old massacre

PAGADIAN CITY—A barangay chair of Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday for his alleged involvement in a massacre of a family in Gingoog City 18 years ago.

Ronneil de Lara, barangay chair of Lapirian Village in Tukuran, confessed to the NBI agents that he did take part in the killing of Renato Bucog, his wife and the couple's 7-year-old son on May 1, 1984.

The Bucogs were at that time suspected to be sympathizers of the communist New People's Army.

Bucog's son, Victor, who survived the carnage, earlier wrote a letter to the NBI in Cagayan de Oro City complaining about the unsolved crime and asking for help in the arrest of the perpetrators.

Recently, a breakthrough in the case came when an unidentified informant from Gingoog City tipped off the NBI agents that one of the suspects was hiding in Zamboanga del Sur.

The informant told the agents that the suspect has assumed a new name and has been elected chair of a barangay.

De Lara's real name is Dominador Galarion. In 1996, he ran and won as barangay chair of Lapirian. He was reelected this year.

Victor positively identified Galarion when shown a picture of the barangay chair. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NATIONAL FISHERFOLK CONSULTATION ON FISHERIES
APPLIED NUTRITION CENTER-BANILAD, CEBU
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2002
WTO OUT OF FISHERIES

WTO Out of Fisheries!

Filipinos consume 60% animal protein derived from fish. With the opening of the talks in the WTO on fisheries subsidies, fishers fear the continuing negligence by government to look into rationalized fisheries management and sector development, in its effort to liberalize the sector.

Since the 1970s, the fisheries sector has been looked up to for dollar earnings by exporting fish and fishery products. In 2001, the fisheries sector gained a trade surplus of $383.1 million. Total fishery exports amounted to $448.8 million.

The question is, at what cost? Who benefits?

Fishers who comprise 5% of Philippine labor force, not counting unpaid women and children contributing to the sector, are questionning the political economy of fisheries trade on the following grounds: environmental sustainability, socio-economic equity, and national food sovereignty.

Led by the Kilusang Mangingisda and other NGOs in fisheries and rural development, a national consultation on fisheries trade, subsidy and market access, paved the way for the formulation of the **BANILAD DECLARATION**, calling for WTO to get its hands off fisheries.

On the other hand, fishers in rural communities are calling for expanded support to the country's food security base.■

INCREASE SUBSIDIES FOR MUNICIPAL FISHERIES!

NO TO FISH IMPORTATION!
TO FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN FISHERIES!
TO FISHERIES TRADE LIBERALIZATION!

Pananaw ng maliliit na mangingisda sa pagbukas ng kalakalan ng pangisdaan:

Usapin ito ng pagkain. Mahalaga ang papel ng pangisdaan sa pagbibigay sa ating mamamayan ng mahigit 60% na pangangailangan sa protina. Kapag tinahak natin ang landas ng produksyon sa pandaigdigang pamilihan, ilalagay natin sa panganib ang kaseguruhan natin sa pagkain partikular ang usapin ng produksyong sapat sa ating pangangailangan at ikokompromiso natin ang ating soberenya kung saan tayo ang nagkokontrol sa pinanggagalingan ng ating pagkain.

Usapin ito ng kalusugan. kaakibat ito ng usapin ng kaseguruhan sa pagkain kung saan dapat tiyakin na mayroong akses ang mga mamamayan sa ligtas at masustansyang pagkain. Lumalaganap na paggamit ng kemikal sa pagpreserba ng isda, lalo na sa mga imported na produkto, na makasasama sa kalusugan ng mga mamimili.

Usapin ito ng kabuhayan. Malaking bahagi ng ating populasyon ay pangunahing umaasa sa pangisdaan bilang hanapbuhay. Kapag ibinukas sa importasyon ng isda ang lokal na pamilihan, lubhang manganganib ang kabuhayan ng mga maliit na mangingisda.■

BANILAD DECLARATION POs: KILUSANG MANGINGISDA * Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AADC) * Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi (BASULTA) * Centro Agnipa Fishermen's Assn. (CENAG) * Gugma han Maqueda Bay Igun Undong han Organisasyon Samarnon (GIOS SAMAR) * Kapatiran ng Malayang Maliit na Mangingisda (KAMMMP) * Malayang Mangingisda para Magpaunlad sa Yaman ng Nayon – Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka (MAMAMAYAN) * Pambansang Alyansa ng Maliit na Mangingisda at Komunidad na Nangangalaga ng Karagatan at Sanktuaryo sa Pilipinas (PAMANA KA SA PILIPINAS) * Progresibong Alyansa ng Mangingisda ng Pilipinas (PANGISDA) * PAKISAMA * Pambansang Katipunan ng Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK) * Provincial Network of Resource Managers (PRONET) * Para sa Masa (PSM) * Pinalakas na Ugnayan ng Mangingisda ng Luzon, Mindanao at Visayas (PUMALU-MV) * Pambansang Samahan ng Maliit na Mangingisda – Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (SMM-AMA) * Visayas Network of CBCRM Practitioners (VISNET)

Tarlac villagers ask city council to probe alleged Army harassment

TARLAC CITY—Residents of Barangay Care here are collecting statements and petition letters to ask the city council to investigate the alleged military abuses in the village.

Arnel Navarro, chair of the militant group Anakbayan here, said a resident, Dennis Yalung, filed a complaint against Army Sgt. Andy Bartolome for allegedly harassing him recently.

The complaint, filed before the office of the barangay captain in Care, said Bartolome was drunk during the incident.

"Many residents here have become victims of harassment from these soldiers because they are drunk almost every night," Navarro said.

Soldiers belonging to the Special Operations Team (SOT) were sent to various villages here to secure the areas of operation of the government's Kabalikat Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) program.

Barangay officials called the soldiers assigned in the village and discussed the alleged harassment last week. Bartolome, reports said, apologized to Yalung and admitted in the meeting that he was drunk while he was on duty on the night that he accosted Yalung.

Navarro also said the soldiers interrogated him twice. "The soldiers interrogated me twice to force me to reveal the names of Anakbayan members in our village," Navarro told the INQUIRER.

Reports here said the soldiers also asked Cesario Navarro, Care Barangay chair, and his councilors to sign an affidavit belying an INQUIRER report on the alleged militarization in 10 villages in the city.

Navarro said one Sgt. Benigno Aquino gave the affidavit to Barangay Councilor Jack Capulong and asked him to bring it to barangay officials for signature.

Aquino admitted that he gave the affidavit to Capulong. Aquino also said the document came from his "direct superior from Nolcom (Northern Luzon Command)."

He later identified his "direct superior" as Col. Preme Monta, the spokesperson and information officer of the Army's Northern Luzon Command.

Monta denied Aquino's claim and said the "direct superior" of the soldiers is Lt. Col. John Bonafos, the SOT chief.

"I will personally investigate the matter. Erring soldiers will be dealt with a corresponding punishment," Monta said.

The military is also under fire in Batangas as members of fishermen's organizations decried alleged harassment by Air Force men during Wednesday's protest actions in commemoration of World Food Day.

Mario Santos, Haligi ng Batangueñong Anak-Dagat (Habagat) chair, told the INQUIRER that 30 fishermen aboard a mini-Elf truck were blocked by PAF soldiers in Barangay San Diego, Lian town early Wednesday morning.

Santos said the soldiers prevented the fishermen from taking part in a World Food Day rally. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Marawi City mayor tears down homes in suspected haven of drugs, crime

ILIGAN CITY—Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali Solitario has apparently run out of patience when he sent recently armed security officers and a clearing crew to tear down houses in Lower Dansalan Village there.

The barangay, prominent for its lumber processing business, has long been suspected as the haven of drug dealers and criminals in that city.

Solitario's move came a few days after two people, one of them a 10-year-old child, were killed in a shoot-out between police and suspected drug dealers.

Solitario said he only wanted Marawi to become drug-free and that the demolition of shanties and houses there was part of that effort.

He said the renewed campaign against illegal drugs, which have been blamed for rising criminality, was becoming successful after more suspects fell in the past few months.

Late last month, police authorities led by Chief Insp. Siegfred Ramos, Marawi City police chief, arrested at least 40 suspected drug pushers.

"We have successfully solved 75 percent of crimes in Marawi, which for the past 15 years have not been solved," Solitario told a local TV station here.

He said he wanted the city to regain its image as Mindanao's summer capital.

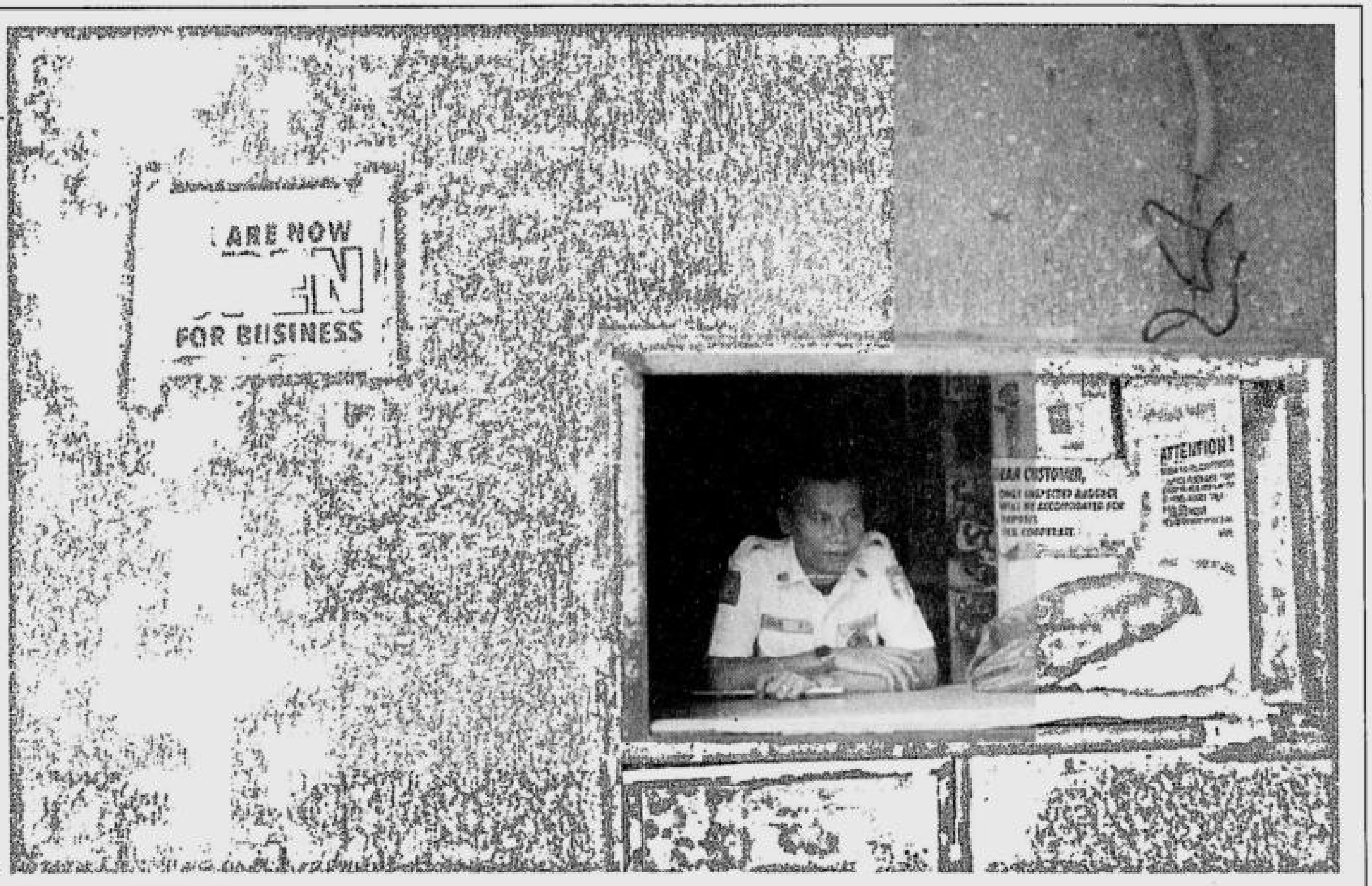
Prior to the renewed campaign on criminality, visitors would normally avoid the city for being "dirty, full of crime and unsafe."

"It's very sad because Marawi has a lot of potentials. It is very rich in culture and tradition," Solitario said.

He said he wanted to "turn this negative notion 80 degrees around."

Solitario said a park or market would rise in Dansalan to prevent the return of criminals. *Jeffrey Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bolinao folk press gov't to dismantle fish cages



DENNIS SABANGAN

SMALL OPENING
A lone guard standing vigil in a baggage depository of a store in Zamboanga City provides additional encouragement for shoppers whom a sign just above the depository's window may fail to convince that everything is normal following two bombings in the city.

MASINLOC, Zambales—At least 73 fish cages, mostly owned by residents of Bolinao, Pangasinan, have been put up without environment permits in some 500 hectares of the Oyon Bay, a federation of fisherfolk organizations here said.

The bay, the group said, was declared by former President Fidel Ramos as a marine reserve in 1993.

The Pampangisdaang Reporma at Adhikain ng mga Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng Zambales (Para sa Maza) held protest rallies starting last week to ask local officials to order the closure of the illegal fish cages.

The bay area straddles the municipal waters of Masinloc and Palauig towns. The cages occupy some 300 hectares in Masinloc and 200 hectares in Palauig, according to a report from the federation.

Renerio Altarez, Para sa Maza spokesperson, said they wanted the structures dismantled because their proliferation and operations are likely to trigger fish kills that devastated Bolinao's economy and coastal environment in February.

Oyon Bay, he said, was not suitable for fish cages because most of its parts are shallow and have a sluggish tidal movement.

Because of the lack of natural feed to support the fish cages, Altarez said operators have been using artificial feeds that might lead to algae bloom, oxygen deficit and pollution.

He said the federation raised the issue before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon in October last year.

Altarez said the DENR confirmed the non-issuance of environment compliance certificates (ECC) to operators of fish cages but municipal officials have not acted on the complaints of some 3,000 fishing families.

"We have been passed on from one office to another. We were told to go to the DENR, to the Protected Area Management Board, to the courts. We really were given a roundabout," he said.

He said an additional 90,000 square meters of fish cages were built in the bay last month.

He said previous municipal officials issued the business permits for the fish cages but the federation is pressing Palauig Mayor Jessu Edora and Masinloc Mayor Milagros Guatlo and their respective municipal councils to pass resolutions and ordinances banning fish cages at the Oyon Bay.

Unless they do that, Altarez said the municipal governments would continue to violate Proclamation No. 231, which declared the coastal area and islands in Masinloc and Oyon Bay as marine reserves. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Farmer leader dies

CABANATUAN CITY—The chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon died in a vehicular accident in Maria Aurora, Aurora, Thursday. Reports said Rod Flores, 54, was on his way home to Nueva Ecija on a public utility jeep when the accident happened at 1 p.m. Thursday. He has just come from a rally of farmers in Maria Aurora. Reports said the right front wheel of the jeep was detached, causing it to crash in a slope in Barangay Dinadiawan, Maria Aurora. Flores, who was riding on top of the vehicle, fell and died instantly. Three other persons were hurt.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Witness abducted

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A vital witness to last month's slaying of a police official was allegedly abducted by one of the suspects and, with the aid of a barangay captain, a report here said. Sharon Canda told police that her husband Virgilio, a prime witness to the murder of Senior Insp. Isabelito Bernardez, was taken last Oct. 12 by suspect Angelito Tolentino and Alfredo Cruz, head of Barangay Amsic in Angeles City. The abductors also included Pablito Tolentino and a certain Noli Canda, she said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hot logs seized

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Army soldiers confiscated in separate occasions at least 6,200 board feet of illegally cut wood. Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southern Luzon Unified Command chief, said a military checkpoint in Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal intercepted an Isuzu Elf loaded with about 1,000 board feet of logs believed to be illegally cut. Driver Manalo Ingote and his aide Danilo Bordan were arrested and turned over to the 419th Police Mobile Group in Rizal. Last week, Army men also seized some 5,200 board feet of lumber and illegally felled trees in the same town. An Army team headed by one TSgt. Villaresco spotted the illegally cut logs with a volume of about 3,500 board feet in Barangay Daraitan. A group led by a Cpl. Recuenco seized 30 pieces of timber in Sitio Malibay, Barangay Laiban. A third patrol team seized an Elf van loaded with about 200 board feet of flitches allegedly owned by Joel Manalo, village chief of Dalaitan in the same town.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Outstanding Quezonians

LUCENA CITY—The Quezon provincial government cited 66 outstanding citizens of the province in this year's "Dakilang Anak ng Quezon Award" recently held here. Among the awardees were a lawyer-environmentalist, academicians, bankers, military officials, and former local government officials. Vice Gov. Jovito Talabong, acting provincial governor, said the annual search is a venue to recognize Quezon natives who deserve the honor. "They have provided necessary help and assistance for the uplift of the lives of local community residents, which they never left and they preferred to stay instead of living in other much developed areas," Talabong said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Firearms seized

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, head of the Armed Forces Southern Unified Command here, said soldiers from the 1st Infantry Battalion under one Capt. Artajo confiscated two .22 cal. rifles, a sniper scope, two magazines and at least 114 rounds of assorted ammunition. The firearms, Kyamko said, were seized on Oct. 16 in Sitio Sapang Munti, Barangay San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, from two civilians identified as Richard Rodriguez and Juancho Aropa.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Grant for poor Mindanao folk

THE PEOPLE of Lamitan in Basilan are rebuilding their lives after the devastation of conflict. Lamitan is one of the towns in Mindanao participating in a livelihood assistance project funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). Peter Smith, counsellor for development cooperation at the Australian Embassy and head of AusAID in Manila, recently handed over a check worth P1.96 million in grant to Hatimil Hassan, board member of the SZOPAD Foundation for Peace and Development. The money would finance various livelihood initiatives

Iloilo starts preparations for El Niño

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Shallow wells, seed and fertilizer subsidies and the planting of summer crops would see Iloilo province through the El Niño months.

Agriculture officials here have promised support to farmers to ease the impact of the prolonged drought that comes with El Niño.

They said "mitigation plans" were in place and some are being implemented this month even though Western Visayas is still enjoying some rainfall.

El Niño is characterized by the warming of the Pacific Ocean resulting in drought in countries along the Western Pacific and rainfall, cyclones and hurricanes in countries found in the Eastern Pacific rim.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has allotted P7.3 million as El Niño funds for the last quarter of 2002 until the end of the dry spell in 2003.

More than a hundred shallow tube wells and open wells would be constructed in Western Visayas to support standing rice crops and summer crops like vegetables, watermelons and cantaloupes, said Ricardo Oblena, regional executive director of the DA.

Farmers can also acquire subsidized seeds and fertilizer from the DA if they were able to plant in September or earlier.

Each farmer is entitled to 40 kilograms of certified seeds and two bags of urea per hectare. If a farmer used his own seeds, he could have an additional bag of fertilizer.

The distributed rice seeds are the early maturing variety so that farmers harvest early to minimize the effects of El Niño. The fertilizer and seed subsidy for Iloilo amounted to P1.8 million, said provincial agriculturist Inocencio Pari-an.

The DA is expected to fund the rehabilitation of small water impounding ponds and diversion dams in Balasan, Bingawan, Alimodian and San Joaquin.

Local government officials are also lobbying for the repair of their irrigation canals that can efficiently hold water during the dry months.

Village execs told to build own infra

A CONGRESSMAN from Bulacan urged village officials to put up village construction firms and build their own infrastructure projects to be funded by so-called pork barrel funds.

In a statement, Rep. Willy Villarama (Aksyon, Bulacan) said jobs could be generated through barangay-initiated infrastructure.

He said should his countrywide development fund be used for projects, he preferred that these projects be undertaken by barangay construction firms.

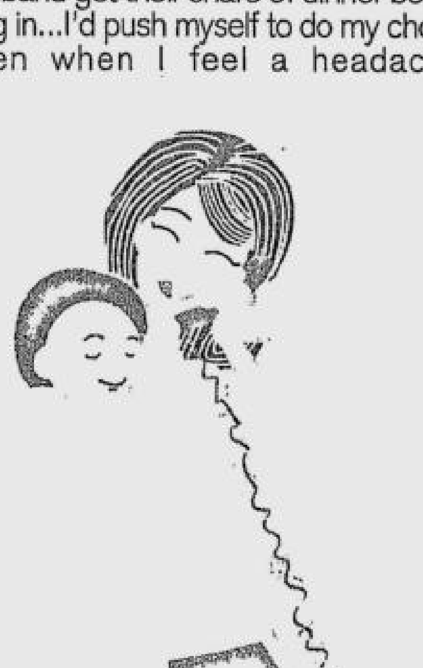
He said he would hold dialogues with barangay officials in his district to map out ways to carry out his proposal.

The construction firms need not be big but they should have experienced workers who have the skills to build roads, small bridges, playgrounds, barangay halls, school houses and drainage canals.

"While my congressional development funds are not huge, they could help finance a number of essential projects in the second district of Bulacan," his statement said.

Villarama, chief of staff of President Macapagal when she was still vice president, said barangay leaders and non-government organizations are the best sources of ideas on how to improve communities through infrastructure.

He said barangay leaders should compete for CDF funds through better ideas and technology.



MATTERS
by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan

MOMS NEED PAMPERING TOO!

There is no such thing as a supermom. We may do our duties at a rate that's faster than a speeding bullet and juggle our roles ever so cleverly. However, at the end of the day (or sometimes, even during midday), moms do get exhausted, with their patience worn thin and with a terrible headache, too. I'd be the first to admit that during my stressed-out times, I've snapped at my loved ones and that truly made me feel worse than ever!

Which just goes to show --- MOTHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO!

Let's face it - like any other human being, we moms long to be nurtured and be made to feel special. We seek rest and appreciate a few minutes of peace and solitude to get our bearings straight. We need this before we can face a husband deadtired from work and in need of a massage and a listening ear...or a bunch of energetic kids all raring to share their stories and wanting to have some of your undivided attention also.

"...we long to be nurtured and be made to feel special."

When I was just starting out as a mom, I said to myself – Family first, before myself...at all times. I'd let my kids and husband get their share of dinner before I dig in...I'd push myself to do my chores even when I feel a headache. Then, I realized – hey, I enjoy bonding during our family meals more on a full stomach...and yes, I am able to do more work with much better results when I'm up and about and without any pain.

And so, we must learn to take good, good care of ourselves. Love your body enough to feed it on time and with naturally healthful foods...to make it rest and recharge. I've learned to wake up before my family does to spend some moments with God and then, pamper myself with a shower, play a game of badminton or enjoy an exhilarating massage.

Most especially, I've learned not to ignore but to pay attention to any pain I feel. The minute I feel a headache coming, I take Biogesic. It's the one and only headache reliever that has worked for me all these years! I know for a fact that the medicine in Biogesic is so safe, I actually take it whenever headache strikes, even on an empty stomach. In minutes, I feel well and ready to take on anything again.

Truly, we mothers should give ourselves a dose of the love we give our family. For it is when we take good care of ourselves that we can take care of our family even much better.

Advt.

₱1-M reward offered for info on bus bombers

A PHILIPPINE Marine continues to search for evidence from the debris of Sunday's explosion in Zamboanga City. DENNIS SABANGAN

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parked the bike and left and then there was explosion. It was the bicycle that exploded," the boy told reporters.

Supt. Mario Yanga, city police director, said the police were looking for at least 10 suspected bombers in Zamboanga City. "Seven of them have already been identified, but we will not release their names until they are arrested," Yanga said.

One of the identified bombers is a woman. Police could not say whether the suspects belonged to the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group behind the spate of kidnappings in Sulu and Basilan and reportedly part of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Police and security officials have yet to provide any evidence that they are closing in on the suspects in the string of bombings. They named a long list of possible attackers: the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The JI is believed to be behind the Oct. 12 nightclub bombing in Bali, Indonesia, that killed more than 180 people and injured 300 others.

A police official said the bomb attacks could be the work of the joint forces of the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF and the Misuari Breakaway Group (MBG), which is composed of followers of former MNLF leader Nur Misuari. "We could not just pinpoint one group. It seems that the three have joined forces to carry out the attacks," said the source.

He pointed out that the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF and the MBG had joined forces before when one them was under threat.

The police official recalled the encounter between government forces and a small group of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul, Sulu, on Oct. 13 during which 11 Marines died after the bandits' ranks swelled from 30 to 100.

The military believed that the bandits were reinforced by members of the MILF and the Misuari Breakaway Group. "Our soldiers were surprised when they encountered a larger group," the official said.

The source said the police were also looking into reports that five suspected Abu Sayyaf members, who arrived in Manila from Jolo, Sulu, last week, could be behind the bus explosion in Quezon City.

In an interview with ANC television, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez declined to discuss the possibility that several groups might be working together. "We are analyzing this, and we are analyzing this very quietly," he said.

But Chief Insp. Antonio Clarito, operations chief of the Zamboanga City police, said the Abu Sayyaf could be responsible for Sunday's bombing. "The Abu Sayyaf is one of the groups being eyed because there is no other group more capable of doing this than them," he said.

The military said there was still no link between the bomb blasts in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila.

"There is no piece of information or evidence that would link the bombing of that bus with the Zamboanga bombings yet," retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, Armed Forces spokesperson, said.

"We are not looking at one group. We are looking into the possible collusion among terrorist groups, large or small groups, that are out to destabilize the government," Purificacion said.

Tetryl explosive

After analyzing bomb fragments and debris from the bus attack, police concluded that the device was made of TNT and tetryl—explosives that are readily available in the country for mining and quarrying, said Senior Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, director for the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Supt. Warlito Tubon, chief of the Logistics Support Service's Explosives and Ordnance Division, said the explosives were normally issued to the Armed Forces and the national police.

"We don't have conclusive findings yet if the bomb used last Friday was the same type as the bombs used in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila," Mosqueda said, referring to the five bomb explosions that killed at least 23 people.

He said the national police was importing its supply of TNT and tetryl from countries such as Singapore, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Spain. Asked if the communist rebels and secessionist groups have a supply of such explosives, Tubon said: "They usually get those left behind by soldiers after an encounter. That's their only source."

Bomb scare

Paranoia gripped Zamboanga City after the series of explosions. Calls from nervous residents flooded the city police a day after the blast at Fort Pilar.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Yanga said his office had entertained about 26 calls pertaining to suspected bombs.

"We dispatch our policemen every time a suspected bomb was reported. Some reports had it that suspicious boxes or baggage were left at the Zamboanga Puericulture Center, at the premises of Ateneo de Zamboanga University, at the Mindpro or even in residential houses. But we found nothing. People are becoming paranoid," he said.

As of late afternoon yesterday, policemen in civilian clothes searched garbage bins. "We needed to sift through the garbage to ensure that no bomb was there," a policeman assigned to Camins Avenue said.

Sidewalk vendors like Marietta Binag were also seen helping the policemen. "We might not know it. These people (bomb suspects) are too clever. They could use everything to sow terror," Binag said.

A similar mood gripped passengers of a boat in Pagadian City. At around 8:45 p.m. on Sunday, 15 minutes before a Cotabato City boat was to depart, passengers were pestering port authorities about a backpack.

When the other passengers became restless, boat officials agreed to leave the backpack at the port. Bomb experts from the Pagadian City police opened it and found a camera.

INQUIRER correspondent Rosa May de Guzman, who was one of the Cotabato-bound passengers, said she was very disappointed with the way security measures were being implemented at the port.

At around noon yesterday, the police were again summoned to the Pagadian public market after an abandoned box was found near its gates. The box did not contain an explosive.

Panic in Ermita

In Manila, a bomb scare caused panic among passengers of a bus, employees of a Pag-Ibig office, and customers of a convenience store.

Passengers rushed out of a bus in Liwasang Bonifacio (formerly Lawton) in Ermita at around 8:30 a.m. after one of them found a small bag containing something metallic and cylindrical.

Driver Dario Garpia, 32, reportedly took the Alabang Transport Corp. bus (PWR-235) to the Ermita police station on United Nations Avenue and sought the help of policemen.

Senior Insp. Lorenzo Molato, head of the Western Police District explosives and ordnance division (EOD), said his men discovered that the "bomb" was a small stainless coffee thermos jug.

At around 11 a.m., a box which police later found to contain candles, was mistaken for a bomb at the Pag-Ibig Office on Soriano Street in Intramuros.

In Sta. Cruz District, the EOD evacuated a 7-Eleven convenience store on Blumentritt Street and Rizal Avenue after security guard Danilo Giganto reported a suspicious-looking gift-wrapped box inside a Giordano bag left at the baggage counter.

Chief Insp. Ferdinand Quirante, Blumentritt police community precinct chief, said the EOD personnel used a "disruptor" to detonate the suspected bomb. After inspecting the fragments, the EOD concluded that the box contained drinking glasses. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Jerome Aning in Manila; Rosa May de Guzman, Hernan dela Cruz, Ed General and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AP*

Peso sinks

From page A1

to top out at 53.50, on wariness over possible central bank intervention, prompted players to book profits on the dollar's gains.

But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank did not intervene in the foreign exchange market.

He said the currency was affected in early trade by jitters over a spate of bomb attacks in the country last week but stabilized somewhat in the afternoon.

"Initial volatility subsided in the afternoon, as no untoward incident occurred," Buenaventura said in a message to reporters. "We did not intervene."

Other central bank officials said the peso tracked regional currencies, like the Japanese yen, Korean won and the Singapore dollar.

Just temporary

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the peso should be trading in a stronger range based on the economy's fundamentals, and its depreciation to a fresh 14-month low on Monday was only temporary.

"The peso's weakness should be temporary. If based on the fundamentals, which remain good, the peso should be higher," Tetangco told reporters.

Buenaventura admitted that the peso was not out of the woods yet, as uncertainties continued to grip the market.

However, dealers said dollar demand at dips beyond 53.30 was strong, with budget data due later this week likely to show a deficit in the first nine months of P155 billion to P160 billion, well ahead of the full-year target.

"There is very little going in favor of the peso for the moment, with local security concerns preventing the unwinding in risk aversion trades, which has been seen in much of remaining non-Japan Asia," said Sameer Goel, a market analyst at Bank of America in Singapore.

Stock traders said they expected the weakness in stocks to continue in the short term, and that the main index could test major support at 980 points if there were any more bomb attacks.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. were among the heaviest losers. Blue-chip PLDT, a favorite of foreign and local investors, fell P6 to P224. SM Prime lost 15 centavos to P4.95 on possible security threats in its malls.

"That (the bombings) seems to be the most important reason why the market is down. Other than that we don't see any other significant developments," said April Lee-Tan, research head at Citisecurities Inc.

"The market is cautious and investors don't have appetite for stocks and those who have hung on ... have decided to liquidate their positions," Lee-Tan said.

The main index slid 12.77 points or 1.24 percent to 1,014.90 points, the lowest closing since Nov. 14 last year.

Turnover narrowed to P210.14 million from Friday's P335.69 million. Losers were in a two-to-one majority. *With reports from Reuters and AFP*

US starts own probe of latest bombings

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American soldier and three Filipinos, the source added.

"This is part of their global efforts to fight terrorism after 9-11," the source said, referring to the terror attacks on the United States on Sept. 21, 2001.

Another source at the Central Police District said government investigators were also looking into the possible link between the two latest bombings.

In the two incidents, TNT was used and buses were also the target, the CPD source said. He added that there could also be a link to the discovery of a cache of TNT in Alabang, Metro Manila, on Oct. 15.

"Maybe the suspects there got scared and aborted the mission. The bus in Balintawak also came from Alabang," the source said.

The aide of Sabaya, Mark Bolkerin Gumbahale, was nabbed on Thursday morning at an Internet café in Maharlika Village, a Muslim community in Taguig City.

"(The US official) was here to establish Gumbahale's possible links to foreign terrorist groups," Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, police director for the Intelligence Group, said. He declined to identify the American, however.

Police authorities have not yet established Gumbahale's links to the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a militant group believed to have links with the al-Qaida network of suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

The JI is said to be plotting to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

During police interrogation, Gumbahale admitted participating in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila, which killed 23 persons and wounded scores of others, officials said.

TWO US Marines secure the perimeter fence of the Edwin Andrews Airbase in Zamboanga City following Sunday's bombing at the Fort Pilar Shrine. DENNIS SABANGAN

He also confessed to seeing one Mouklis Yunus in a meeting in Quiapo, Manila, during which the bombing plot was hatched. Yunus, alleged special operations group chief of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, had been reportedly tapped by Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi to purchase explosives for the attacks.

Al-Ghozi, a confessed member of the JI, is serving a jail term in the country for possession of explosives.

The CPD has identified a group that could be responsible for last Friday's blast. The other day, Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, CPD director, had said they were looking at the possibility that a group with "leftist connections" was responsible for planting the bomb. "We are now running after them," he said.

True identity

Controversy erupted over Gumbahale's true identity, and the ruckus did not spare President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Caringal said Gumbahale had admitted that he was the Abu Sayyaf leader of the same name, but better known by his alias Dr. Abu. The leader, who is included in the order of battle of the Department of National Defense, has a P5-million prize on his head.

The photo of Dr. Abu in the DND files, however, was that of an old man.

"It's possible that there were two persons using the same name," Caringal said.

But the police still consider Gumbahale "a big catch," being the chief aide of Sabaya and having participated in major operations of the Abu Sayyaf, Caringal said.

Gumbahale is implicated in the abduction of 21 tourists, mostly foreigners, from the Sipadan island resort in Malaysia, and of students and teachers in Basilan.

He was one of those accused of beheading seven enlisted personnel and two officers of the Philippine Army, and two civilians who failed to pay ransom the same year.

Bomb meant for 'limited' casualties

By Alcuin Papa

THE BOMB that exploded in a bus in Balintawak, Quezon City, last Friday was not meant to kill many people, according to an ordnance expert.

The officer, who declined to be named, said the bomb "was a high-velocity explosive device with maximum blast effect but a low fragmentary residue, meaning there was little or no shrapnel at all."

His statement was seconded by Supt. Raul Medina, chief of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, the lead group in the investigation of the blast.

"We found no shrapnel so this leads us to believe that the purpose was not to injure or kill a lot of people. It was meant for limited casualties. Also, it was deployed at night. It was unfortunate that there was someone seated near the bomb and a number of people in the bus," Medina said.

The explosion killed two persons and injured 20 others.

The CPD released an artist's sketch of the suspect who, witnesses said, alighted from the bus just seconds before the explosion.

Medina said one of the two fatalities had already been identified as Fernando Bon, 21, of 800-D Bisalan St., Valenzuela City, and employee of Tyme Products Inc. located at 13-B Miller St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Abus kidnap Chinoy trader in Tawi-Tawi

From page A1

sponsibility for the abductions.

Chan, also known as Lin Yusu, owns Uni Aqua Tech in Bongao, a water refilling station. Other reports described Chan as a Taiwanese trader dealing in seaweed and fish.

In Manila, two American tourists and their Filipino *"balikbayan"* friend were reportedly abducted outside a mall in Ermita District early Saturday night—and suspicion has fallen on two "policemen" who acted as their escorts.

The incident was reported to the Western Police District by Lhea June dela Cruz, who identified the victims as her sister Diwa, 38, and Diwa's friends, Catherine Smith and Christine Scoths.

But a ranking police expert in kidnapping cases said the alleged kidnapping was a *kuryente*," or a false report.

A police report quoted Dela Cruz as saying the victims left the mall on board their cream-colored Toyota Hi-Ace van with license plate No. WNU-522, with the two alleged policemen who had been escorting them.

She said the victims were supposed to go to a moneychanger in Sta. Cruz District and she was to wait for them back at the mall.

When the victims did not return, Dela Cruz called the moneychanger, only to find out they had failed to make a visit.

Dela Cruz identified the "fake policemen" as PO2 Norberto de Guzman and PO2 Ricardo Asuncion from WPD's Station 9 in Malate.

Dela Cruz said she called up the station and learned that no such policemen were assigned to the place.

Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong, WPD director, told reporters that his men were still coordinating with the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response office in Camp Crame. In the meantime, they are regarding the incident as "a missing persons case."

"We don't know if there was any kidnapping—yet but we're coordinating with Pacer," he said.

Bulaong said the initial information they got was that the alleged victims had merely been fetched by their relatives.

Abu Sayyaf

The Abu Sayyaf, suspected of having carried out the bombings in Zamboanga City early this month, is also said to be behind the abduction of three Indonesians and four members of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

All seven hostages are still with the Abu Sayyaf despite "Operation Endgame," a military battle plan aimed at eliminating the Abu Sayyaf and rescuing the hostages.

Two years ago, Abu Sayyaf guerrillas crossed into neighboring Malaysia by boat and took 21 Western tourists and Asian workers from a dive resort. They took the hostages to Jolo, where all but one Filipino were freed reportedly in exchange for huge ransoms.

Another Abu Sayyaf faction took 102 hostages, including three Americans, in a yearlong kidnapping spree that ended last June with a bloody army commando rescue of the final three hostages.

American missionary Martin Burnham died, but his wife Gracia was wounded and rescued in that operation. Filipino nurse Edibora Yap was also killed in the rescue. *With reports from Jerome Aning, TJ Burgonio, AFP and AP*

Calamity funds tapped for anti-terror gadgets

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CITY mayors may now use their calamity funds to buy anti-terrorism equipment.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the request of the 20 mayors belonging to the League of Cities who attended a three-hour meeting yesterday in Malacanang.

"We're now treating terrorist activities as calamities," he said. "We want to prevent them before they happen."

Bunye said the President granted the mayors' request to use their calamity funds—which had heretofore been released only in the event of typhoons or flash floods—after getting the go-signal of the Commission on Audit.

He said the funds would be used only for the purchase of metal detectors, surveillance equipment and other anti-terrorist gadgets, as well as the training of local anti-terrorist groups, and that the mayors would have to justify their purchases.

The President also approved the mayors' plan to hire civilians to augment the police force, provided they would not be allowed to carry firearms.

Unlike the Metro Manila mayors who met with Ms Macapagal last weekend, the city mayors did not propose to arm the barangay *tanod*.

"We are not encouraging that. But definitely they can assist in intelligence gathering," Bunye said.

But as with the Metro Manila mayors, Ms Macapagal ordered the city mayors to take the lead in securing their areas against terrorist attacks.

The city mayors also endorsed the proposed national ID system.

Cebu and Baguio reportedly offered to pilot-test a local ID system while waiting for Congress to come up with a national system.

The Supreme Court junked the concept of a national ID system as "unconstitutional" four years ago, but Malacañang and some legislators recently revived the proposal purportedly to thwart terrorists.

Bunye said Cebu and Baguio agreed to pass their respective city ordinances to implement a local ID system "to find out what the kinks are."

"The local ordinances are presumed valid and legal until someone questions these," he said.

ALL VEHICLES
STOP
FOR IDENTIFICATION
& VERIFICATION

MEMBERS of the Presidential Security Group inspect vehicles entering Gate 6 of the Malacañang Palace.

EDWIN BACASMAS

No karaoke nights . . .

From page A1

killed a Marine corporal and wounded 14 people, including candle sellers and devotees of our Lady of Pilar, the city's patron saint.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, yesterday told the INQUIRER that priests should also "exercise precaution in conducting missionary and catechism services in the South."

But when asked whether priests should arm themselves, Coronel said: "We do not believe in arming, we believe in keeping the peace."

Asked whether it was proper to ask the police and military to help secure churches, he said this would be left to the decision of local bishops.

Coronel said there was as yet no unified response from the bishops on how to keep churches and shrines safe. But he said the CBCP was prepared to listen to "what the bishops are contemplating."

He also raised the concern that church attendance might drop: "I hope the faithful will continue to attend Mass and pray for peace in Mindanao."

Coronel said the people could seek help from Our Lady of Pilar, who is believed to have saved Zamboanga from tidal waves and bandit attacks during the Spanish era.

"I hope, through the intercession of the Lady of Pilar, that the faithful of Zamboanga will be protected from further bombing," he said.

Terrorist activity

The Canadian Embassy likewise urged caution when traveling to and within Southeast Asia.

"Recent terrorist activity has raised the possibility of increased dangers for Canadians in the region. Canadians should maintain a high level of personal security awareness at all times due to the possibility of terrorist actions and civil disorder," its advisory read.

The embassies of Australia and the United Kingdom issued similar advisories late last week.

The Japanese Embassy's advisory, which was modified after the Oct. 17 bomb attacks in downtown Zamboanga City, explicitly warned against bombings and enjoined Japanese citizens to "be careful in the entire Philippines." It also said they should take precautions against kidnappings and petty crimes.

Embassy insiders said they had received reports of cancellations of travel into the country and calls inquiring about safety here.

Nevertheless, the advisory carried no warning against travel to Cebu and Boracay, places known to be frequented by Japanese tourists.

Staying away

In Pampanga, many residents of Angeles City and nearby towns are staying away from shopping malls and other crowded areas.

On Saturday night, the INQUIRER even received text messages seeking confirmation of the alleged explosion that hit a mall in the city of San Fernando.

Efren Torres, who once worked as an aircraft mechanic in Singapore, said he and his wife chose not to take their children to the malls last Sunday.

"It's better to be careful," he said. "You can't tell what would happen because if the bombers can plant bombs in Metro Manila, they can also do that here. We won't put our children's lives at risk. These bombers do not care about the innocent civilians."

Vey David, a manager of an automotive shop in Mabalacat town, said she and her friends dropped their plan to spend Sunday at two big malls in the province.

"We intended to go to the malls, but we hesitated," she said. "Even our parents and relatives told us to just spend the day somewhere else, where there is no risk of bombing."

Local radio commentators have been calling on the management of shopping malls and bus companies to tighten security measures and on the public to cooperate.

An editorial of a local daily said Saturday that the bomb scare had "now spread into Dau, Mabalacat and Angeles and San Fernando" and that "people in the grip of fear" were avoiding business centers, affecting the local economy.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, also advised the public to be vigilant against terrorist attacks.

In Bulacan, police have installed checkpoints at toll stations in the towns of Meycauayan, Bocaue, Tabang, Sta. Rita, Pulilan, Marilao, Balagtas and Guiguinto.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said he had also ordered police chiefs in Malolos, Baliuag, Meycauayan, Bocaue and Guiguinto to tighten security in and around malls in their areas.

Secret marshals

In Negros Occidental, secret marshals have been fielded in buses going to San Carlos City and the towns of Hinobaan and Candoni.

Provincial police chief Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras said that while the possibility of the bomb attacks spilling over to Negros Occidental was remote, they were not taking chances.

Lt. Col. Rolando Picar, commanding officer of the 66th Infantry Battalion based in Guihulngan town, Negros Oriental, said they were closely coordinating with police in Dumaguete City to secure densely populated areas and beach resorts frequented by foreign tourists.

The Police Regional Office-Western Visayas also reminded city and provincial police directors to initiate extra precautionary measures to secure foreigners and local tourists.

Ponteras said contingency plans were in place for any emergency situation that may arise in Negros Occidental. *With reports from Jun Malig and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gloria tells PEA board members to quit

From page A1

board to go on indefinite leave on Sept. 25. That same day, she appointed Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong as acting chair. Recently, she designated retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva as board director and acting general manager.

Ms Macapagal said the resignation of the PEA board members was "without prejudice to the prosecution if recommended by the Department of Justice or the Senate blue ribbon committee."

The case is also being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Plunder complaint

Tagud and 15 civil society leaders filed a complaint of plunder on Oct. 3 with the Office of the Ombudsman against 16 officials and a businessman in connection with the alleged scam.

Tagud lodged the complaint against 12 PEA executives, four government auditors and Jesus Legaspi, president of JD Legaspi Construction (JDLC).

"Today, I take a stand against corruption, a social cancer that has been destroying the moral foundation of our country," Tagud said after filing the complaint. "Let this be a call to the Filipino people . . . Let us ensure the future of our children by doing something good for this country."

He claimed that only the 2.3-km portion of the road that was built by JDLC was overpriced. The remaining stretch was built by Shoemart Inc. and DM Wenceslao Consortium.

The contract for the Central Boulevard Project, as it was originally called, was awarded in 1999 during the Estrada administration. But the price escalation that resulted in the overprice was approved by the new PEA board appointed by the Macapagal administration.

Tagud said the price adjustments were allegedly made without prior approval of the Office of the President as required by the contract.

He cited up to seven price adjustments between March 2001 and August 2001 that jacked up the cost of JDLC's portion by 180 percent. The original contract price in April 2000 was P298.4 million, but the PEA paid JDLC a total of P816 million, according to Tagud.

He came up with the alleged overprice after comparing JDLC's construction cost with those incurred by the two other contractors for the remaining portions of the road. Shoemart built 1.4 km of the road and a 100-meter bridge for P148 million, while DM Wenceslao built 1.18 km of road and a 55-meter bridge for P246 million.

Projects suspended

Ms Macapagal said she was suspending "all pending and planned projects of the PEA, especially those requiring public bidding until the investigation of the alleged overpricing of the project at the reclamation area shall have been completed."

In asking for the resignation of the PEA board, the President did not make a distinction between the case of Tagud and his colleagues whom he had accused of jacking up the price of the road contract.

In her speech, the President said she read a report that the Senate blue ribbon committee had supposedly concluded that the contract to put up the boulevard "went through the right process but the price was quite high."

"I am not contended. I still wish to go to the bottom of the controversy," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she wanted to identify the wrongdoers and "possibly revamp the PEA for being embroiled in many scandals."

She said she was instructing "state probers investigating the PEA anomaly to speed up the pace of work, unmask the guilty party, and submit a final report at the earlier possible time."

More Mr. Right candidates

From page A1

Males outnumbered females in the age groups 0-19 and 25-54 years, and females dominated the other age groups (20-24, 55 and above).

Here's something even more incredible: There were more single men than there were single women.

According to the NSO, 52.94 percent of the 25 million single people were males. (But here's the catch: The 25 million included the 15.9 million below 20 years of age.)

It may be interesting to note that there were more widowed females (75.72 percent of the 2.6 million total) than males (24.28 percent).

The NSO also said more than half the female population belonged to the reproductive age group of 15-49 years, the highest percentage of which (10.53 percent) was in the 15-19 years age group.

Highly educated women

The figures show that in the Philippines, women have attained higher levels of education than men.

Of the 267,000 who completed or attended post-baccalaureate courses, women comprised 58 percent; of the 2.9 million holding academic degrees, also 58 percent; and of the 6.7 million college undergraduates, around 51 percent.

More women finished or attended high school (around 51 percent of the 18.9 million).

But there were more males who completed or attended elementary education (52 percent of the 27.9 million), and more males who finished or attended post-secondary education outside of a college degree course (around 52 percent of the 2.56 million).

And politicians may want to take note that there were slightly more women voters than men. Of the 43.3 million voters, 50.11 percent were women.

100M in 14 years

But whether male or female, the population of the Philippines will reach 100 million in just 14 years, and the 76.5 million population in 2000 will double in just 29 years.

These NSO estimates were based on an annual population growth rate of 2.36 percent, which was what was recorded in the 1995-2000 period. It was 0.04 percentage points higher than the annual growth rate during the early 1990s.

The country's population growth rate has been declining since the first half of the 1970s, the NSO said in its report.

The last increase in population growth rate—3.07 percent—was recorded from 1948 to 1960.

The increased growth rate has worried many policy makers because this will mean stretching further the country's dwindling resources. It has also alarmed family planning advocates who say that given its resources, the Philippines' ideal growth rate is only 2 percent.

Young Filipinos

The Philippines has a young population, with half of the total below 21 years of age.

The dependency ratio of 69.04 shows that every 100 people in the working age group of 15-64 years have to support 63 young dependents. (The previous census in 1995 showed a dependency ratio of 69.6.)

Young dependents aged 0-14 years comprised 37 percent of the total population.

WORLD SERIES TIED

Salmon sparks Angels' 11-10 win

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

ANAHEIM, California—Tim Salmon's second home run of the game, a tiebreaking, two-run shot with two outs in the eighth inning, lifted the Anaheim Angels over the San Francisco Giants 11-10 Sunday to even the Series at 1-1.

No active player in the majors had gone longer than Salmon–1,388 games–without reaching the postseason until this year. Yet it had been Barry Bonds' absence from the Series that had attracted all the attention– until Salmon connected off Felix Rodriguez to give the Angels their first-ever World Series win.

"I think I made the most of my opportunities. It was awesome," Salmon said. "The way the game went back-and-forth was unbelievable.

"We knew there was going to be a hero in the dugout," he said, "and tonight it was me."

Credit

Much of the credit belonged to Francisco Rodriguez, too. The 20-year-old rookie sensation pitched three perfect innings and got the victory, making him 5-0 in the postseason.

Rodriguez joined Randy Johnson as the most successful pitcher in postseason history.

The win in Game 2 was the fifth of the postseason for Rodriguez, equaling the record Johnson set last year when the Arizona Diamondbacks won the Series.

San Francisco slugger Barry Bonds homered for the second consecutive day, launching a solo shot with two outs in the ninth off Angels closer Troy Percival. But the crowd of 44,584 roared as Percival finished it without further damage.

San Francisco's Pacific Bell Park will host the World Series for the first time in Game 3 Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila). Livan Hernandez, 6-0 lifetime in the postseason, starts for the Giants against Ramon Ortiz.

Fireworks

Salmon went 4-for-4 with a walk, driving in four runs and scoring three. As he circled the bases and fireworks exploded overhead after connecting on a fastball, Felix Rodriguez angrily tugged on his cap.

The homer capped the Angels' comeback from a 9-7 deficit. They had led 5-0 after the first inning before homers rallied the Giants.

"You could tell it was going to be an offensive night," Giants manager Dusty Baker said. "The ball was carrying.

"It was one of the best games I've ever been in," he said.

Bonds, making his first Series appearance in his 17th major league season, went 1-for-2 with three walks. Like everyone else in the San Francisco lineup, he couldn't solve Rodriguez as he grounded out. The rookie pitcher struck out four.

A day after both bullpens pitched 3 1-3 hitless innings, most of the relievers had a lot more trouble getting outs.

The Giants scored four times in the fifth off John Lackey and Ben Weber for a 9-7 lead. Game 1 star J.T. Snow hit a tying, two-run single, then hustled to avoid being forced to give David Bell a go-ahead infield hit with two outs. Shawon Dunston, playing in his first Series game at age 39, added a sharp RBI single.

Scott Spiezio's sacrifice fly off Chad Zerbe pulled the Angels within a run in the fifth.

SALMON (15) hits a two-run home run in the eighth inning against the San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Felix Rodriguez. AP

GAME 2 LINESCORES:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
San Francisco	0	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	10	12	1
Anaheim	5	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	X	11	16	1

Swiss heroine trips Davenport

ZURICH, Switzerland— Local favorite Patty Schnyder toppled defending champion and second-seeded Lindsay Davenport 6-7 (5), 7-6 (8), 6-3 Sunday in the final of the US$1,224,000 Swisscom Challenge to win her first career Tier 1 title.

The Swiss player kept her nerve throughout the 2 hour, 15 minute contest to win her first title of the season, the eighth of her career. It was her first on home soil.

"It's my biggest title ever," said the 19th-ranked Schnyder, after recording her first victory against Davenport in six meetings. "I played a great tournament. There was so much emotion playing in Switzerland in front of my home crowd.

"It's given me so much confidence. It's a great victory."

Schnyder's journey to the final was a combination of luck and impressive skill.

The Swiss drew Czech qualifier Denisa Chladkova in the first round, then walked through the second when third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France withdrew with a knee injury.

That's when Schnyder began earning her way through, upsetting seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia in a marathon three sets, then defeating Spanish veteran Conchita Martinez less than 12 hours later in the semifinals.

Schnyder and Davenport stayed neck-and-neck throughout the opening set, with both players missing a number of chances, the American squandering two break points at 2-2 and her opponent wasting three at 5-4.

They continued to remain close in the tiebreak, with Davenport only eking the win when Schnyder sent a giant lob out down 6-5. *AP*

Yao watches as Rockets beat Magic

HOUSTON—With new Chinese recruit, Yao Ming, watching from the Houston bench, Steve Francis had 16 points and nine assists to lead the Rockets over the Orlando Magic 101-96 in an NBA preseason game Sunday.

Yao, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, landed in Houston earlier in the day. His arrival came after months of contract negotiations, releases from the Chinese government and a pledge of allegiance to the Chinese national team.

Yao did not dress but was introduced before the game. The 2.26-meter (7-foot-5) center sat on the bench for the first half before leaving to begin a series of physicals.

Rockets rookie Joaquin Hawkins helped seal the victory by hitting two free throws with 11.1 seconds to play.

Hawkins finished with 13 points, four rebounds, two steals and a blocked shot. Forward Bostjan Nachbar from Slovenia, added seven points and four rebounds for Houston (4-1).

Darrell Armstrong led the Magic (2-4) with 18 points and six rebounds.

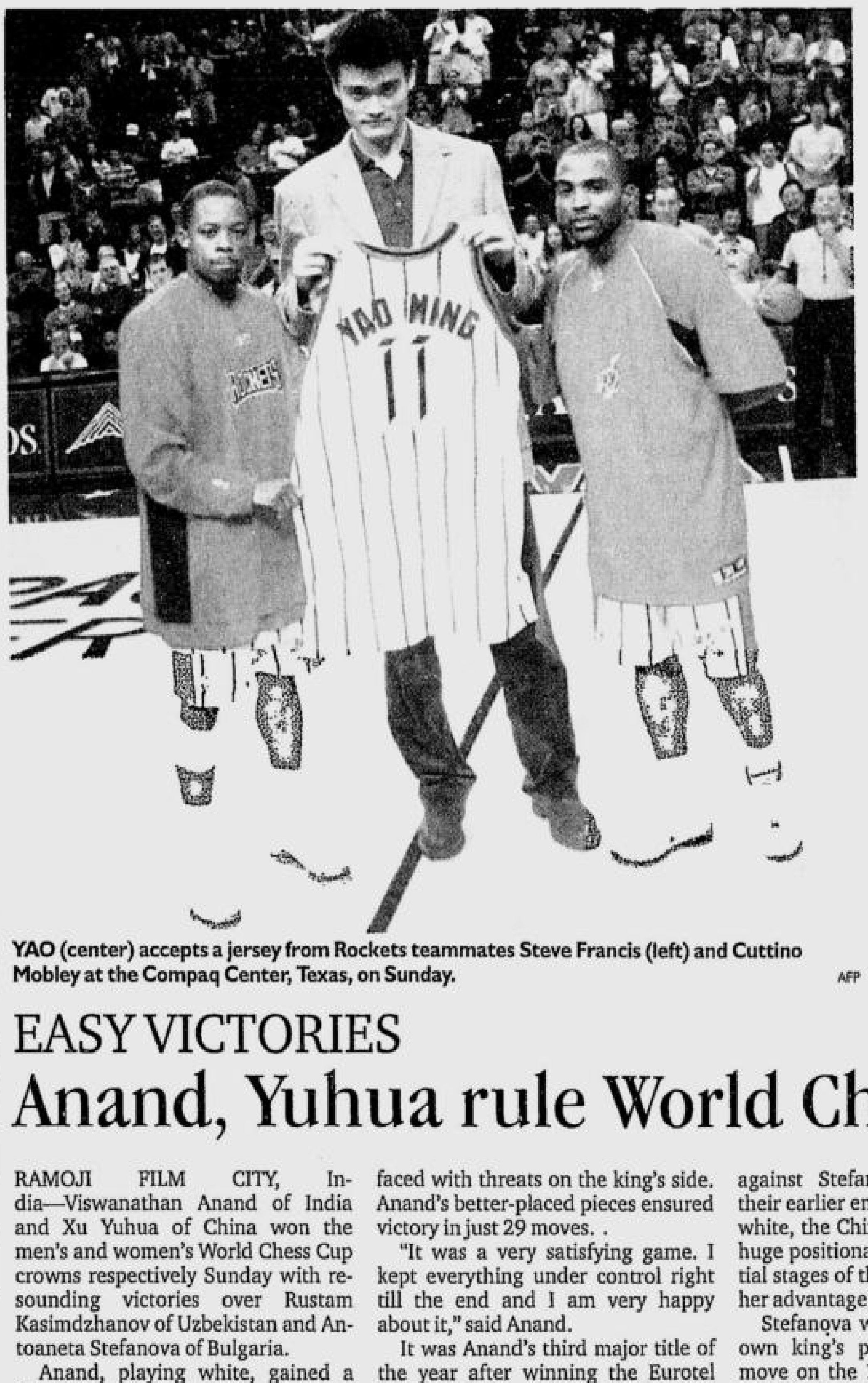
Yao, who led the Chinese national team to a silver medal in the recent Asian Games, signed an agreement to return home for future international competition. His four-year contract with Houston is worth $17.8 million.

Yao will begin workouts with the Rockets to try and get ready for the Nov. 1 season opener at Denver. *AP*

8 Days to NBA Opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that eight is the most number of blocks by a single player in an NBA Finals game? This was set by Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets in Game Six against the Boston Celtics in 1986.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, La Salle beat UE, 78-74, to keep its UAAP basketball crown at the Araneta Coliseum. Also today in 1992, the Adamson Baby Falcons defeated the Ateneo Blue Eaglets, 76-68, to bag their sixth straight UAAP junior basketball crown at the Loyola Center.



YAO (center) accepts a jersey from Rockets teammates Steve Francis (left) and Cuttino Mobley at the Compaq Center, Texas, on Sunday. AFP

No. 1 draft pick is instant celebrity

By Michael A. Lutz
AP Sportswriter

HOUSTON—Yao Ming finally joined the Houston Rockets on Sunday and quickly realized his first dilemma: He's an instant celebrity.

"Everyone wants to take pictures but I'm so busy," he said in his only English comment. "Everyone wants a picture with me but I'm only one guy. I can't be in two places at once.

"I just want to say sorry ... sometimes I have to go because I have business to keep."

The Rockets made Yao the NBA's No. 1 draft pick in June but they had to wait through months of contract negotiations, releases from the Chinese government and competition in the Asian Games with the Chinese national team before he landed Sunday in time to see the Rockets play the Orlando Magic in an exhibition game.

He was met at the airport by fans clamoring for his autograph and obliged as many as he could before being rushed to Compaq Center for pre-game introductions.

Yao was warmly introduced at midcourt by guards Steve Francis and Cuttino Mobley. Yao then greeted each of his new teammates and sat on the Rockets bench when the game started.

"This is a new start with new challenges and to see everybody out here for support makes me feel great," Yao said through an interpreter.

Yao, who led the Chinese national team to a silver medal in the recent Asian Games, signed an agreement to return home for future international competition. His four-year contract with Houston is worth $17.8 million.

The 7-foot-5 (2.26-meter) center will begin workouts with the Rockets to try and get ready for the Nov. 1 season opener at Denver.

The Rockets' next exhibition game is Wednesday in San Antonio. His first chance to play before the home crowd would be Thursday against the Philadelphia 76ers–if coach Rudy Tomjanovich decides to put his new star on the court.

EASY VICTORIES

Anand, Yuhua rule World Chess

RAMOJI FILM CITY, India—Viswanathan Anand of India and Xu Yuhua of China won the men's and women's World Chess Cup crowns respectively Sunday with resounding victories over Rustam Kasimdzhanov of Uzbekistan and Antoaneta Stefanova of Bulgaria.

Anand, playing white, gained a firm advantage from the opening and made short work of Kasimdzhanov in the return game after the two drew the first game on Saturday.

Kasimdzhanov, pressured on both flanks, tried to stop Anand from making a decisive breakthrough but was faced with threats on the king's side. Anand's better-placed pieces ensured victory in just 29 moves. .

"It was a very satisfying game. I kept everything under control right till the end and I am very happy about it," said Anand.

It was Anand's third major title of the year after winning the Eurotel Trophy at Prague and the Mainz Chess Classic in Mainz, Germany. He also led the World team to victory against Russia in the Match of the New Century at Moscow.

In the women's championship, Yuhua also won a one-sided game against Stefanova, who had won their earlier encounter easily. Playing white, the Chinese player obtained a huge positional advantage in the initial stages of the game and improved her advantage in the middle game.

Stefanova was forced to open her own king's position with a pawn move on the 14th turn. By the 21st move, Yuhua had a winning position on the board and it took her just 10 more moves to force a resignation.

"I think I played a good game. I am happy to win this tournament again," said Yuhua, who won won the women's World Chess Cup in China two years ago.

Kids football unfolds Oct. 27

COPA Pinoy Kids, a football festival for kids 12 years old-and-under, kicks off on Oct. 27 at the Cuenca Park, Alabang.

It will be participated in by 10 clubs, including the seeded Alabang Knights of Jojo Durian and the Urdaneta Dinosaurs of coach Alvin Ocampo.

Special focus will be on the two public school selections entered by coaches Chito Manuel/Dolfo Alicante (Juventud FC) and Venus Manlangit (Parañaque Sonics).

Juventud FC will be led by Paolo Regalado, Romnick Dalinog and Aldie Mayo, while the Sonics will have Mark Martizano, Christian de Leon and Arsenio Agojo to count on.

Manila Golf barges to Fed League finals

By Jong Arcano

THE MANILA Golf Club completed a dramatic comeback by ousting defending champion Forest Hills after a sudden-death playoff that ended in a manner so bizarre over the weekend to reach the Federation Golf League finals for the first time in four years.

Manoling Chan and Jon Papa, given the chance to redeem themselves from their earlier loss in regulation play, delivered at crunchtime by securing the pars that won them the playoff which was played in the high-low format.

Chan, Papa and Forest Hills spearhead Ronnie Littaua were all getting ready to proceed to the next tee for the extension that looked certain when Littaua's partner, Larry Patnongon, stood over his own par putt-a virtual tap-in from about two feet.

There was no extension.

Under the gathering dusk, the well-built Patnongon jammed his straight putt with the ball lipping out of the cup, sending the Manila Golf team, caddies and family members into a raucous revelry on the green as if they were the Europeans who had won the Ryder Cup.

As the Forest Hills players shook their heads in disbelief over the putting blunder of a man who reigns as their club champion, Patnongon was left almost frozen in the middle of his green of sorrow.

A scrambling 1 up result in the aggregate by O.V. Espiritu and Alex Prieto secured a 3-1 win for Manila Golf that levelled the match score at 4-4 and forge the playoff, counting the similar 3-1 triumph earlier posted by Forest Hills in its home turn.

JP Reyes-Joey Yujuico (high-low) won the high-low and Jojo Guingona-Dennis Valdes (scramble) took the scramble for Manila Golf's other wins.

Tempers flared in the best ball match when Chan confronted Forest Hills captain Vic de Guzman for making snide remarks after the former made an inquiry to referee Toots Aquino. Cooler heads, however, were able to pacify both of them.

Manila Golf will face the winner of the Mimosa-Southwoods semifinal match which will be completed today. Mimosa took a 3-1 lead after the first half of the duel played in Pampanga and it will be Southwoods' turn to host today, needing a big comeback to salvage a finals stint.

"Manoling said he wanted to make amends for his earlier loss so I felt he was the guy who was ready to win the game for us," said Manila Golf captain Arsenic Laurel. "He did so I think we made the right decision."

"Our backs were behind the wall when we took our turn to host and we never lost hope. We just didn't expect the match to end the way it did," he said.

First Gentleman's Circuit resumes today

DANNY Zarate, the best performing Filipino in the Asian Tour, and the rest of the big names campaigning abroad are back to join the challenge to Antonio Lascuna's attempt for a back-to-back romp as the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit resumes today at the challenging Sherwood Hills course in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

Zarate, who tied for 17th in last week's Macau Open, gets his chance to play one of the few legs he can join the local circuit due to his tight schedule in the Asian Tour and will be the marked man among the 70 starters vying for the P100,000 champion's pot.

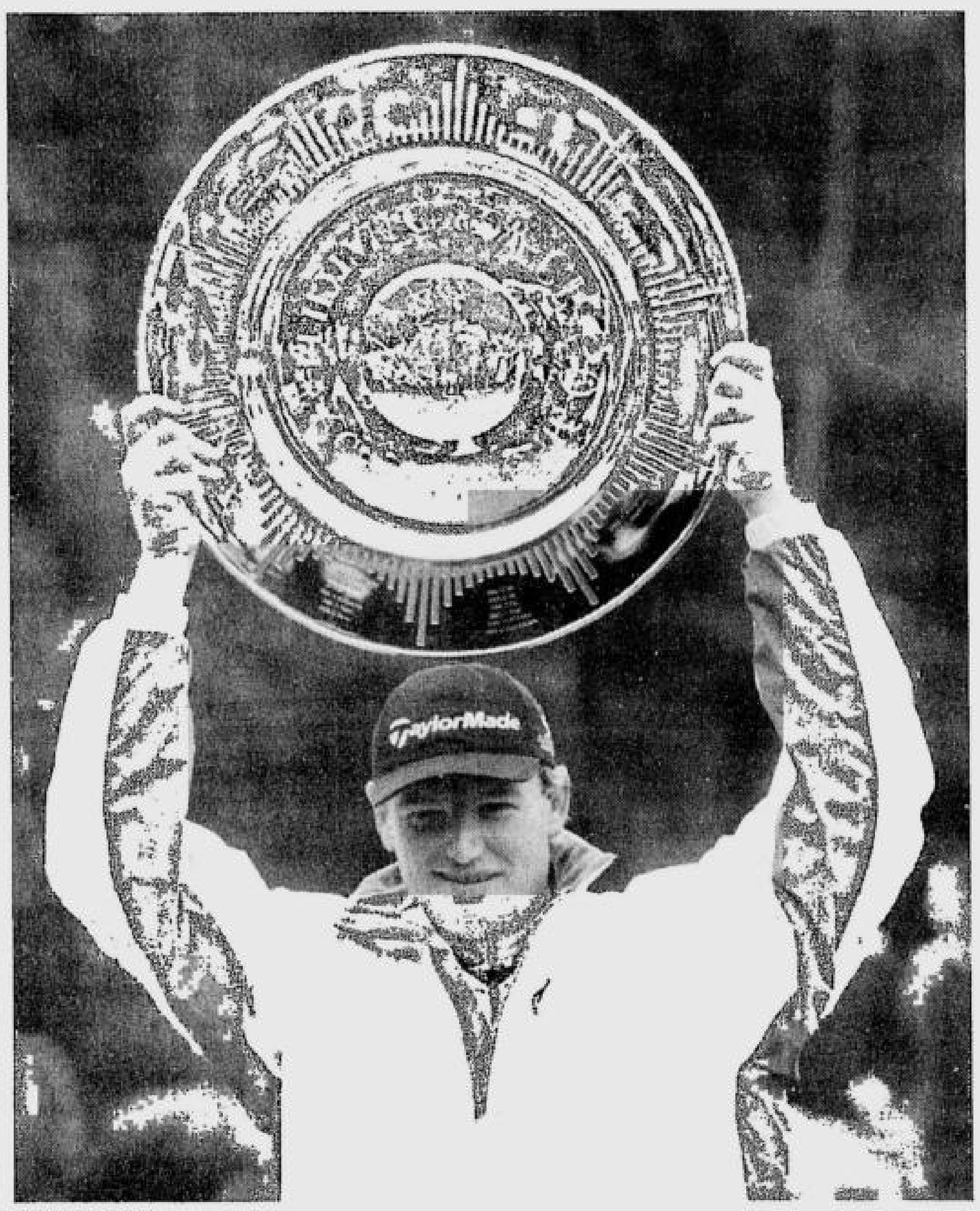
Also entered are Rey Pagunsan, who had played in last week's Japan Open like Frankie Minoza, as well as multi-titled big guns Rodrigo Cuello and Robert Pactolerin, who both missed the kick-off leg at the Sta. Elena course won by Lascuna to play in Macau.

After beating Marlon Dizon in a sudden-death playoff for the season opener, Lascuna returns to the same windswept course designed by the legendary Jack Nicklaus where he won the Sherwood Hills Open leg of the Fil-Estate MRT Tour last year.

For him to win again would be a mission doubly tougher for Lascuna who will not just be contending with the new crop of young pros including Cookie LaO, ' Randy Garalde and Solomon Gines but the real tough guys on tour.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, whose foundation is the fund source of the circuit revival that has given back most of the local pros their livelihood, will again grace the opening ceremonials together with Comelec chair Ben Abalos, in his capacity as commissioner of the pro body, Fil-Estate Group of Companies chair Bob Sobrepeña, Ogie Manalo and Richie Garcia of the organizing Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines,Inc. and Col. Antonio Cabangon Chua of the executive committee.

Cassius Casas is himself a man on a mission as he tries to end a terrible slump that saw him miss the cut by one at Sta. Elena. The many-time circuit champion has never been the same since his disastrous US Open showing and Sherwood Hills which is one of his regular practice courses hopefully will become the venue for resurrection or at least redemption.



4TH TITLE

Ernie Els of South Africa shows his trophy after beating Spain's Sergio Garcia, 2 & 1, to clinch his fourth World Match Play title on Sunday at Wentworth's West Course in England. AFP

Bata takes P.36 million in Masters

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' magic waned in the finals as he bowed to German Ralf Souquet, 9-4, Sunday night (Monday in Manila) in the 2002 World Pool Masters at the Woughton Center in Milton Keynes, England.

The Filipino ace settled for the second prize of $7,000 (P364,000) while Souquet, who took a record fourth masters crown, pocketed $15,000 (P780,000).

"He made many mistakes but before the match Efren said that I have got a real good record against him. I guess I'm Efren's bogeyman because historically he never does well against me," said Souquet.

Against Souquet, Reyes was never in his element. Though he took the first rack, Reyes started missing his pot shots, allowing the German to surge ahead at 4-1. Reyes took the next rack when Souquet missed a Masse shot, but the Filipino scratched and Souquet proceeded to clinch the match.

Reyes downed Nick Van Den Berg of Holland in the quarterfinals and Fabio Petroni of Italy in the semifinals.

Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan shared third and fourth with Swede Marcus Chamat, claiming $4,000 (P208,000) each.

Busan Asian Games gold medallist Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Pagulayan's victim in the quarterfinals, wound up tied for 5th to 8th and took home $2,000 (P104,000).

Burns holds off Woods, rules Disney

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida–Bob Burns became the 16th player to win his first PGA Tour event this year at the Disney World Golf Classic on Sunday, although he distinguished himself in one significant way.

None of the other first-time winners had to hold off Tiger Woods.

Playing with the poise of a proven winner, Burns made consecutive birdies on the back nine to seize control and was solid the rest of the way, closing with a 7-under 65 for a one-stroke victory over Chris DiMarco.

Woods, trying to stage his greatest final-round comeback on the PGA Tour, made up a six-stroke deficit over 10 holes and finished with a 63. He missed a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole that ended his chances. He finished third, two strokes behind.

It was the second time in three years at Disney that Woods has finished at 23-under 265 and had only a third-place finish to show for it.

Burns came to Disney World with hopes of having a good enough week to finish in the top 125 on the money list and keep his card. He was 118th, but that's no longer a problem.

Burns, who finished at 25-under 263, earned $666,000 and now has a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

"I was pretty nervous until hitting my tee shot on 17," Burns said. "Once I got over the water, I thought I could get it to the house."

He and Woods think alike.

Woods watched Burns play the 15th hole — another par — from the ABC television booth, then came out to putting green and sat in a plastic lawn chair to watch the final few holes on the big screen TV, waiting to see if there was any reason for him to stick around.

"This is the tournament here," Woods said as he watched Burns tee off on No. 17.

As Burns' tee shot easily cleared the water and trees on the dogleg left, Woods grinned watching him bend over to snatch his tee from the ground.

"Oh, he pured it. Good for him," Woods said.

It was the first victory for Burns since he won the Buy.com Tour Championship four years ago to clinch player of the year honors on the developmental tour.

Meanwhile, Woods has given his opinion on whether women should be members at Augusta National Golf Club, and the world's top-ranked player said people should respect it or not ask for it.

Woods, in an interview published Sunday in The New York Times, said he is trying to avoid situations in which he can't seem to come out on the right side.

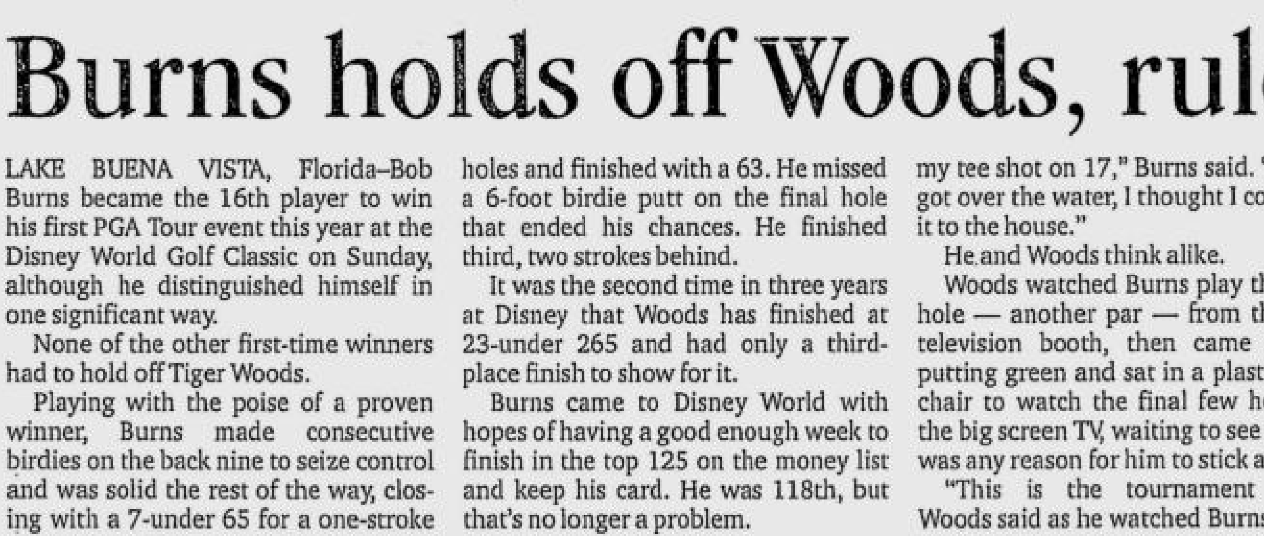
Marikina cops 'volley' crown

CONCEPCION Elementary School-Marikina wrested the crown in the grade school boys' volleyball competition by beating De La Salle Lipa, 22-25, 18-25, yesterday in the 2002 Milo Little Olympics at the TUP grounds.

Lucas Pascual ES captured the distaff side while Letran and Paco Catholic School bagged the high school boys' and girls' titles respectively.

Marist School dominated the football events over at the San Beda field.

At the RMSC Gym, the trio of Anthony Sitchon, Dennis Viloria and Christian Sitchon powered Valeriano Fugoso School to five gold medals in the Milo Little Olympics organized by the CTW group.



Muhammad Ali is applauded by (left to right) boxers Lennox Lewis, Evander Holyfield, George Chuvalo and Larry Holmes as he speaks at a Parkinson's Disease fundraiser during half time of the Toronto Argonauts vs Ottawa Renegades CFL matchup in Toronto on Sunday. AP

Ali calls Lewis 'the greatest'

TORONTO–Boxing legend Muhammad Ali anointed world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis "the greatest" on Sunday–handing over the title he brashly claimed as his own during a glittering career.

"I'm here because I was the greatest," he told an ecstatic crowd at a Canadian Football League game in Toronto.

"I'm now no longer the greatest.

"He's the greatest, he's the champ," he said, pointing to Briton Lennox Lewis who successfully defended his title against Mike Tyson last June.

"I might make a come back," Ali said, adding: "Come back to my senses." The former world heavyweight champion was in Toronto to raise funds for Parkinson's disease research.

Greeted with chants of "Ali! Ali!" from the 25,000-strong crowd, Ali, 60, showed he had lost little of his sharp wit nor his showman's instincts though his body has been slowed by Parkinson's disease.

Shaking noticeably and slurring his words, the boxing great mock sparred with Lewis before intoning: "Don't worry, I wasn't going to hurt him." Lewis shared the stage with Larry Holmes and Evander Holyfield–in possibly the greatest collection of heavyweight champions at one time–to pay a star-studded tribute to Ali.

Three Canadian networks devoted much of the run-up to Ali's whirlwind stop in the city to airing his fights, interviews and documentaries in addition to a telethon to raise money. *Reuters*

Ucap 7-stag derby today at M'luyong Coliseum

THE UNITED Cockers Association of the Philippines, recognized as the premier group of well-known big-time cockers, will stage the 6th Ucap LCC Leonard 7-Stag Derby today at Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

More than 55 quality fights are lined up, according to host Louie Cua. The championship rounds is set for Thursday, Oct. 24.

The Ucap Stagfigther of the Year 2002 winner will also be known after this derby.

So far, the top 10 contenders are OPMI president Vic Yu (King Boxer, 26 points); engineer Sonny Lagona and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB, 22); Alex Tang (Guts and Glory, 22); Ucap head Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master 1, 18.5); Yu (Sir Vincent, 18); Boy Diaz, Ricky Castillo and Anthony Lim (Purple Haze E-68 Piwa, 17.5); Biboy Enriquez (Firebird One, 17.5); Mario Villamor (MV Phoenix II, 17); Enriquez (Firebird Two, 16.5); Jimmy Mariquit (Concierto, 16) and Bobby Wong and Ram Lopez (Flyover, 14).

For other inquiries, please contact 531-4005, 531-4003, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

Meanwhile, submission of entries to the LGBA 1st Stag Series 6-Stag Derby championship round is set today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ex-WBC titlist eyes KO

DAVAO CITY—Former World Boxing Council featherweight champion Gregorio "Goyo" Vargas of Mexico vowed to stop his Filipino opponent Christopher Saluday of Davao City on Oct. 26 at the RMC gym in the main supporting bout of the Duel in Davao between IBF superbantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao and challenger Fabprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand.

The 31-year-old Vargas arrived here together with his father and manager Gregorio Sr.

"I can knockout him in the first round," Vargas told boxing promoter Soc Piñol in Spanish at the Davao International Airport.

Vargas has a record of 41 wins with 29 knockouts. He only lost seven times and had one draw. The 5-foot-6 Vargas met the 22-year-old Saluday yesterday at the Duel In Davao office and gamely made a fighting pose to the media.

Prima kegler ahead

CHECHE Abrantes of TBAM-Prima and Papio de Dios of SLETBA showed the way against equally talented rivals yesterday in the kickoff of the 6th Chinatrust-SLETBA Open Championship at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta.

Abrantes topped the mixed masters category as she rolled a total of 910 pins in the singles event and summed up 2135 in the all events of this tournament sponsored by Chinatrust Banking Corporation, Sta. Lucia East Grandmall, Freyssinet, New Solanie Hotel, Fuji Films, and Fortune Tobacco.

De Dios, on the other hand, accumulated an all-events total of 2135 to lead the graded division.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

MEGALOTTO 6/45 17 26 37 41 42 43

BUHAIN INVITED

Asiad hearing set tomorrow

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE HOUSE committee on youth and sports is set to hold a hearing tomorrow to assess the country's performance in the recent Busan Asian Games.

It will zero in on how the Philippine participation was handled by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Committee chair Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday said they want to determine which sports association should have been given more financial assistance by the sports agency based on their performance in the Asiad.

He added that the committee will also make queries on how the PSC spent its budget amounting to P30 million for the plane fare and accommodation of the 327 athletes and officials. The agency has also spent close to P200 million for their allowances, training and foreign exposure leading to the Games.

Among those invited to the 9 a.m. hearing were PSC chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, heads of the different national sports associations and gold medalists Django Bustamante and Antonio Lining (billiards), Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista (bowling) and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski (equestrian).

"The thrust of the committee hearing is to determine if we have enough policy on handing financial assistance to the NSAs," said Puentevella, who is himself a former PSC commissioner.

Because the POC and NSAs are private in nature, Puentevella said the committee would just be making recommendations to the PSC, which is the government arm for sports development.

"Maybe we can make certain policies on which NSAs truly need financial support and which do not," said Puentevella, obviously referring to billiards, bowling and equestrian which, he said, can bring more honor to the country in future international events.

Though Puentevella said he is satisfied with the country's performance in the Asiad, he maintained that the country could have done better.

The country bagged three golds, seven silvers and 16 bronzes in the Busan Games, surpassing the Philippines' 1-5-12 showing during the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

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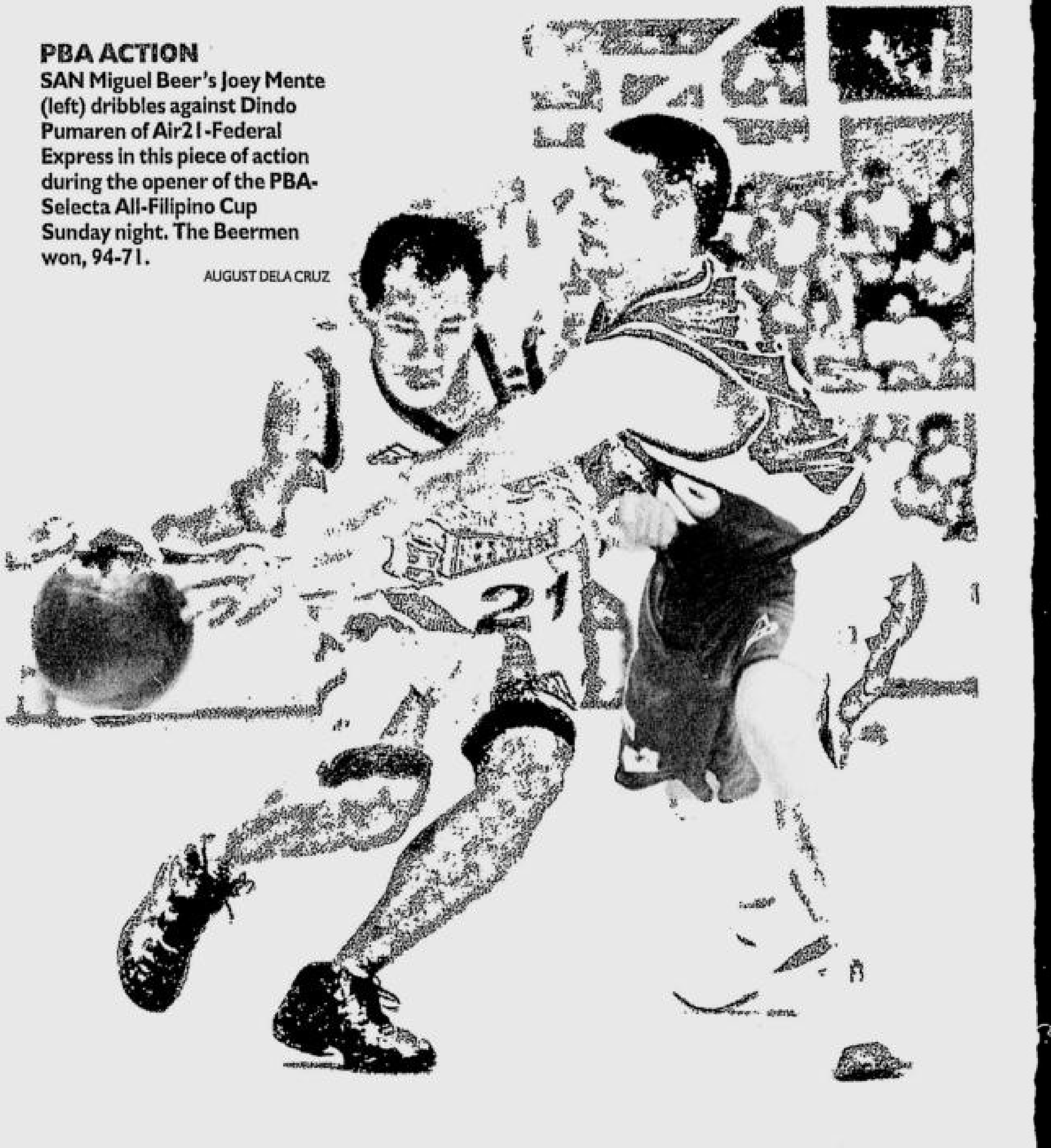

PBA ACTION
SAN Miguel Beer's Joey Mente (left) dribbles against Dindo Pumaren of Air21-Federal Express in this piece of action during the opener of the PBA-Selecta All-Filipino Cup Sunday night. The Beermen won, 94-71.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

3 vie for PBA broadcast rights

By June Navarro

ABS-CBN is definitely out of the running for the television broadcasting rights of the Philippine Basketball Association next season, according to a PBA insider privy to the exploratory talks between the board and the bidders.

Instead, a consortium set up by Carlos "Bobong" Velez and a joint venture between NBN-4 and IBC-13 appear as the leading candidates bringing the PBA games live on [illegible] television [illegible] the country [illegible]ing next year.

"ABS-CBN has only offered its UHF channel (Channel 23) and it doesn't sit well with the PBA board of governors," said the source.

"The NBN-IBC group and the consortium of Velez both have strong points but the board finds Bobong's proposal more forceful and enticing," the source added.

He pointed out, however, that the NBN-IBC combination has the edge based on the merits of the proposal submitted by NBN chair Mia Concio.

Viva-Vintage, which owns the right to air the games for the remainder of the 2002 season, also looms as a strong contender, the source said.

The joint proposal of NBN-4 and IBC-13 impressed the PBA board after Concio and IBC's Ed Finlan made a forceful presentation complete with video clips and other contraptions more than two months ago.

The NBN-4/IBC-13 package opened the idea of a simultaneous broadcast to be carried by both stations or the possibility of one network airing the games on a slightly delayed basis.

In contrast, Velez pointed to his impressive track record as broadcaster and the presence of his experienced business partners Bobby Barreiro, a former GMA-7 executive, RFM top honcho Joey Concepcion and PLDT's Choy Cojuangco.

Velez helped the PBA reach the pinnacle of its success in the mid-'90s before his television outfit, Vintage Television, relinquished its rights to Viva due to massive losses brought about by the economic crisis in the region.

Viva-Vintage, however, is also feeling the pinch of exercising its PBA broadcasting rights as the Vic Del Rosario-owned television outfit is having problems paying the salaries of its workers.

The executive committee of the PBA Board of Governors will make its recommendations to the board, which is expected to announce the winner in the bidding by next week.

Ambassador of ill-will

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DIDN'T know Aparicio Mequi is that old. Said he: "Instead of calling them *bakasyonistas* as we did in the 1950s, or as 'junketeers,' he fondly calls them 'ambassadors of goodwill.'" He was referring to a sports editor calling athletes "ambassadors of goodwill."

My, my. Mequi, sure, hates non-winners.

So, Mequi must hate the last-placer in the Olympic marathon, one of the most revered athletes in any Olympiad. Or the last-placed swimmer from Africa, who learned to swim just weeks before the Sydney Olympics. Or maybe even the trackster, who failed to compete because he was killed by a bus while walking the streets of downtown Sydney days before the start of the 2000 Olympiad.

I won't take that against Mequi. Some people can only have the capacity to love winners.

Mequi also said: "We rely too much on Divine Providence for success. When one of our boxers won his bout to give him a chance for the gold medal, the head of the association said: 'We will all go to church and pray.' It is good to pray, but we should not expect God to give us miracles to win our share of gold medals. 'God helps only those who help themselves.' No amount of prayer will make mediocre athletes triumph in their quest for medals."

I don't know, but I always expect God to give us miracles. If He gives one, praise the Lord. If He gives us none, praise the Lord, too. It's in the believing, not in the receiving.

But again, I won't take that against Mequi. The doubting Thomases will roam this earth forever.

But may I just ask: Is one beating several opponents and advancing to fight for the gold medal considered a mediocre athlete?

Obviously to Mequi, the answer is yes.

Mequi gives this advice to losers: "In order to appear less foolish to a people who know the real score, it may be wise for them (sports officials) to heed the advice of Paul Brown of the Cincinnati Bengals: 'When you win, say nothing. When you lose, say less.'"

What an irony. A tragedy even.

Mequi is himself a loser. And yet, since the day he lost his post as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission with an accomplishment as empty as his skull, he has not stopped blabbing. He has not only said less, he has also said tons of trash.

Mequi loves to put a "Ph.D." after his name. A shame not only to him but also to the school that gave him that. Whereas he has done nothing big in sports before he became PSC chair, he also has done nothing big when he became PSC chair. All he does now, after getting sacked as PSC chair, is say not less but more.

You out there who belong to the 1950s like Mequi, did you really call our athletes *bakasyonistas*, junketeers? Did you call Caloy Loyzaga and his teammates *bakasyonistas*, junketeers, when they did not win the world basketball crown in 1954 in Brazil?

C'mon, say it ain't so or I'll call Mequi the permanent ambassador of ill-will to the United Nations.

Oh, never mind. It's enough that Mequi makes me mock the knife.

Jao pockets 6th road racing crown

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering has achieved what no other local rider has ever done before: win a record sixth road racing title in seven years.

And he did it last Sunday in typical Jao style—he dominated.

Jao swept the final two races of the season, beating Benjo Mendoza in the 11th round and Rod Scott in the 12th round to wrap up the overall title in the 2002 Shell Advance Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

In winning his sixth road racing title since 1996, Jao won 11 of 12 rounds held this year.

"What can I say? It's been another great year for me," said the 37-year-old Jao, who had also won four motocross and three scooter titles before shifting to road racing seven years ago.

Overall, Jao finished with a runaway total of 266 points, way ahead of perennial rivals Toti Alberto and Rod Scott based on the 25-20-16-13-11 scoring system by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Metro Manila-wide curfew planned

Binay tells pranksters to stop; Abalos urges tighter security in schools

INSPECTION IN TRANSIT. Bus conductor Melvin de la Rita checks the bags of passengers while the vehicle is in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Christian V. Esguerra, Jerome Aning, Leila B. Salaverria, and Nelson F. Flores

METRO Manila mayors are thinking of imposing a uniform curfew system in the metropolis as part of the security measures against terrorist attacks.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, who is also the spokesperson of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, said the curfew would be part of the agenda when mayors meet with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando later this week.

The cities of Pasay, Manila and Marikina already have curfews for minors from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Last Tuesday, the Muntinlupa City government implemented its own curfew ordinance which runs from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Trinidad said the mayors are also mapping out a consolidated counter-terrorism plan to help prevent a repeat of last Friday's bomb explosion that killed two people and injured at least 14 others in a bus in Quezon City.

He said the plan would involve intensive intelligence gathering and preventive measures, which would include police visibility in key areas.

"We will get the

METRO/ A24

5 officers charged with slay

By Agnes E. Donato

FIVE rookie policemen yesterday were charged with murder for the summary execution of a man they had mistaken for a drug pusher.

Charged were PO3 Noel Favia, PO2 Henry Garcia, PO2 Mike Prado, PO2 Mon Velasco and PO2 Noe Gapal, all members of the Drug Enforcement Unit of Central Police District Station 11 in Galas, Quezon City.

They were charged before the QC Prosecutor's Office for killing Cresencio Gonzales, of Kaliraya Street, Hunters, Quezon City.

The four policemen, in civilian attire, went to a slum area on Cuenco Street in Banawe, Quezon City at about 1 a.m. on Oct. 8 and barged into the rented room of Herminia Zapanta.

Zapanta told investigators that the lawmen were looking for a suspected drug dealer named Richard. She said she hid under her bed while the men took her companion, Anabelle Baretto.

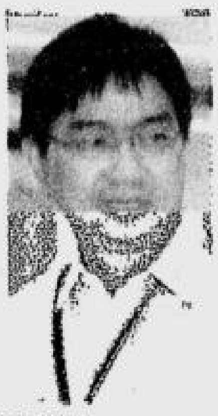
Zapanta said the men, whom she later identified as Garcia, Favia, Prado and Velasco, dragged Baretto and forced her into a white Nissan Vanette with no license plates.

Another witness, Rebecca Morga, said she was only a meter away when the policemen shot Gonzales in front of her rented room in the slum.

Witness Erminia Ivasco corroborated Morga's testimony, claiming she was also standing in front of her rented room when the four policemen arrived. She said she saw the four policemen carry Gonzales's body, wrapped in a red blanket, to the vehicle.

The victim's wife, Fe Gonzales, reported the disappearance of her husband to the Department of Interior and Local Government later that day. But Gonzales' body was not found until 11 a.m. of Oct. 9, in a a grassy lot on Mindanao Avenue. It bore burns while some of its vital organs were missing.

Police said Baretto, one of the witnesses, has gone missing.



MANDA

▪ 3 weeks to pay P724M /A24

MALONZO

▪ Bomb scare in Caloocan election /A24

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Arming barangay tanod dangerous

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M A pro-gun advocate but I'm against giving guns to barangay tanod (village guards) in Metro Manila to fight terrorists and criminals. It's just like giving a gun to an eight-year-old kid.

Most tanod are neighborhood toughies who were recruited by the barangay captain to make other toughies and troublemakers in the community toe the line. In most cases, the tanod don't protect the neighborhood but the interests of the village captain or members of the council.

The government would be treading on dangerous grounds if it arms toughies and kanto boys employed as village guards.

* * *

There's an old Filipino saying, "*ang langaw na nakatuntong sa kalabaw ay mas mataas pa sa kalabaw.*" A fly that stands on the back of the carabao is higher than a carabao.

How very true that saying is in contemporary society. Examples of the fly are the many members of the CAFGU, some politicians' bodyguards, rookie policemen and even cops already long in the service. A lot of these people perceive their authority as an excuse to abuse other "lesser" citizens.

Most of these individuals are the subject of complaints by aggrieved citizens who seek the help of "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" public service program.

* * *

As "Isumbong" host and arbiter, I have also received quite a number of complaints against barangay tanod who reportedly maltreated persons whose faces were new in the neighborhood.

I've had a complaint about a village guard who shot dead a teenager whose fault was that he and his friends were noisy but not creating trouble after coming from a party. The tanod, who did not have a license for his gun, is now in hiding.

And now, the government would give guns to village guards in Metro Manila so they can fight terrorism. Arming the barangay tanod will not solve, but only worsen, the terrorism problem.

* * *

Okay, if the order is already there and can no longer be revoked, then the authorities should exert every effort to make barangay tanod the solution, rather than the problem, in fighting terrorists.

First, the tanod should be closely supervised by responsible policemen. I'd like to stress "responsible policemen." Some rogue policemen might use these armed village guards for illegal activities like extortion.

Second, the village guards must be taught how to shoot, when to shoot and when not to shoot, for Pete's sake! If most policemen can't hit their target at two meters, can you expect the village guards, most of whom will be handling a gun for the first time, to shoot straight?

* * *

I have a suggestion to the authorities: Appoint as police deputies civilians who are authorized to carry guns, especially members of the Philippine Practical Shooting Association (PPSA) or similar civilian shooting clubs.

These citizens are responsible and prominent members of their community. They would make excellent police aides because they have sophisticated communications equipment, or they can afford to buy them if they don't have them yet.

To the argument that they might abuse their authority, these people have a reputation to protect because they're prominent members of the community.

* * *

Let's face it: Not everybody can own or carry a gun.

The government, already selective in issuing guns to civilians, must be more discriminating in giving police authority to civilians.

Only responsible persons who are experts in handling a gun should be given the very sensitive task of helping the police fight terrorism and criminality.

* * *

President Macapagal's personal publicist, Dante Ang, doesn't hold a juicy government post.

So, allegations that he was able to buy a medium-size thrift bank recently through his government position don't have any basis.

Ang is a private businessman. Even before he became the President's spin doctor he was already a successful entrepreneur.

* * *

It's just a coincidence that during GMA's term Ang bought the Manila Times and Tecnogas and partly acquired BankWise.

If at all, Ang's fault is being in the limelight as a result of his closeness to the President.

"I worked very hard to reach my position in the business community," he once told me during dinner last year.

* * *

It has taken the new Bulacan police provincial director, Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., to charge in court the most notorious but untouchable "jueteng" financier in the province.

Serapio, until recently the deputy chief of the PNP firearms and explosives division in Camp Crame, filed illegal gambling charges against Mayor Jaime Viceo Jr. of San Rafael town.

Viceo had never been charged before with illegal gambling. During the time of President Erap, Mayor Viceo was not touched despite the supposedly "no sacred cow" campaign of then PNP chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson because he gave bribes to the then President's son Jinggoy Estrada.

3 weeks to pay ₱724M

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PARAÑAQUE government yesterday gave the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) roughly three weeks to settle its supposed P724-million realty tax liability.

If the Miaa fails to pay even half of the alleged obligation, the local government will proceed with the sale of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport through a public auction in November, said Leo Luis Mendoza, the city's chief legal counsel.

Last Friday, Mendoza said Mayor Joey Marquez and other city officials met with Miaa General Manager Edgar Manda to discuss the lingering controversy over the airport authority's refusal to pay realty taxes.

The lawyer described the meeting as "fruitful and cordial" since Manda had supposedly agreed to settle the airport's liability.

"We're happy because they're willing to pay," Mendoza said in a telephone interview. "We're just checking certain legal aspects."

But prior to the meeting, Manda had told the INQUIRER that the Miaa would pay realty taxes only after the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the Parañaque government.

Manda had vowed to go to the high tribunal after the Court of Appeals junked the Miaa's petition to block the Naia's sale through public auction.

During the Friday meeting, Mendoza said Manda had acknowledged the Miaa's "bleak chances" of winning the case before the Supreme Court since the high court had earlier ordered the Mactan Airport to settle its realty tax obligations before the local government.

Mendoza said Parañaque and airport officials are now clarifying the boundaries of the Naia which is also located in Pasay City.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad has also placed the Naia on the auction block for its refusal to pay around P800 million in supposed realty tax obligations.

METROBRIEFS

4 killed in QC

FOUR PEOPLE were killed over the weekend in Quezon City. Romy Tamalabcad, 50, of E. Rodriguez Avenue, Barangay Damayang Lagi, was stabbed dead by his neighbor Agapito Morinio, 30, over an old grudge, police said. Morinio and two unidentified companions allegedly entered his house at 4:20 p.m. on Sunday and stabbed him repeatedly, police said. In Barangay Apolonio Samson, Orlando Marcos, of Sampaguita Street, was walking home at 8:30 p.m. when an unidentified man attacked him with a knife, police said. Bystanders brought him to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. In Batasan Hills, student Jan Joy Vasquez, 18, was in her house on Dama De Noche Street in Freedom Park, when seaman Apolonio Avila, 42, and a certain alias "Police" entered at about 10:00 p.m. and shot her to death, police said. Avila was later arrested, but the other suspect is still at large. Police found on Avila a .38 pistol. In Barangay Pasong Tamo, barangay officials mauled and stabbed to death Rolando Torres, 35, of Luzon Avenue. Investigation showed that Torres was making trouble in the area and barangay officials Elmer Ferraro, 27; Antonio Circa, 45; Wilfredo Galleto, 27; Reynaldo Cristobal, 33; Soc Ferraro and an alias Obet tried to pacify him and take him into custody.

Alcuin Papa

Sisters stabbed: I dead

HELPER Randy Moncada, 22, of GSIS Village in Project 8, yesterday stabbed dead his sister-in-law Rio Caguindayan, 17, and injured her sister Richie, 24, whom he allegedly also tried to rape. Police said the sisters were sleeping in their room when Richie woke up to go to the bathroom at 4:30 a.m. yesterday. Moncada followed her and tried to rape her but she managed to fight him off and lock herself in the bathroom. Police said Moncada scaled a wall to enter the bathroom but Rio woke up and assisted her sister. Moncada turned on the sisters with a knife, killing Rio and injuring Richie. Police arrested Moncada, 22, who is the husband of the victims' other sister Rhoda.

Alcuin Papa

Barker silenced

BARKER Bunso de la Cruz, 27, was stabbed dead on Friday night by his colleague over their earnings. Police said the suspect was known only by his initials BCJ, but described him as about 5-foot-3 and with regular build. Investigators said the two fought over their earnings as barkers of a jeepney line near the Light Rail Transit station on Doroteo Jose Street. ***Jerome Aning***

ABALOS

ATIENZA

BINAY

TRINIDAD

Metro Manila-wide curfew planned

From page A23

entire community involved, not just the police," Trinidad said. "The *balut* vendor, the sidewalk vendor and all others in the grassroots will have to participate in intelligence gathering."

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza said the city's barangay civilian security volunteers, more popularly known as "tanod," would be reorganized and would undergo more training to further enhance security in the capital.

"We have to strengthen the tanod system because this is vital to our efforts to gather information on groups or persons that might be planning to create disturbances," Atienza said.

In the Manila city council, the opposition called for a "deeper" study of a proposal by the national government to arm the tanod and use them in fighting terrorism.

The council's minority floor leader Don Ramon Bagatsing said the proposal "would not necessary deter crime or terrorism because it would just spread guns in the streets."

Since each of Manila's 897 barangays are allowed up to 20 tanods each, an army of almost 18,000 gun-carrying tanods would be created, he said.

He said a tanod must meet qualifications before being allowed to carry a gun.

But both Bagatsing and Atienza agreed that tanods would function more effectively in intelligence-gathering in the barangay-level.

The mayor also directed city treasurer Liberty Toledo to find ways by which the city government could augment the allowance of tanods. They currently earn P300 to P400 a month.

Also yesterday, the Western Police District and the Philippine Tourism Authority said that the reported discovery of a grenade at the Club Intramuros Golf Course was a "false alarm."

In a joint statement, the WPD and the PTA said what was found last Sunday was an empty vintage grenade shell and not a live World War II hand grenade.

WPD and PTA assured the public that Club Intramuros is safe and tightly secured.

"We assure the public that we have doubled our security efforts at Club Intramuros and other PTA entities around the country ," PTA GM Nixon Kua said.

In Makati, Mayor Jejomar Binay denied that the city is being beset by terrorist attacks, despite the recent bomb threats and a grenade blast.

"Not all that explode are bombs, not all that blow up are caused by terrorist acts," Binay said. "There has not been an explosion (in Makati) related to a terrorist attack."

Still, Binay held a command conference with Southern Police District Director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Makati Police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez and station commanders of police precincts to discuss additional safety measures for the city.

SPD's Gutierrez said operational control of about 80 police officers guarding shopping malls and embassies has been transferred to Makati police, while 50 new policemen are also to be added to the force.

Binay said plainclothes police officers have also been deployed.

He added that a budget for intelligence and for the acquisition of additional vehicles for the police is being prepared.

Police chief Gutierrez said checkpoints may be set up in strategic places in Makati.

Binay told reporters that the grenade blast on Friday should not be seen as a terrorist attack, along with the bomb threats that have flooded the city since Saturday.

"The incident was just the handiwork of someone who had nothing better to do," Binay said, referring to a bomb threat that hit the Oakwood Towers in Glorietta, where a suspicious package containing documents was found. Bomb sniffing dogs even sat on the package, indicating that there might be explosives inside.

SPD Director Gutierrez also told reporters that pranksters could make all the threats they like but the police would not tire of checking all the threats.

In Mandaluyong, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. urged all schools and universities in the city to adopt security measures similar to those being employed in malls and other commercial centers.

As if to heed the mayor's call, security measures in the Mandaluyong City High School and the Jose Rizal University were tightened yesterday, making it very difficult for people who have no official business to enter these places.

Guards in these schools were seen thoroughly checking the bags of those who wish to enter the campus.

Abalos asked the public to cooperate with security personnel.

Eastern Police District Office authorities said no criminal incident was reported Sunday night in the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Mandaluyong and the town of San Juan, adding that it was the third straight "crimeless" night in eastern Metro Manila this month.

"So far we have not received any untoward incident report but we are on constant alert," said Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento, EPDO director.

'Manila Bay areas sinking fast!'

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Areas around the Manila Bay, specifically Pampanga, Bulacan and Bataan provinces and Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) in Metro Manila, have sunk in the last three decades 10 or more times faster than the rate of the global sea level rise in the last century, two geologists said.

These delta areas are sinking at an average of one meter in 30 years, or one millimeter every year, according to Dr. Fernando Siringan and Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo.

The geologists, both with the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences, said the sinking of these areas result in severe flooding.

In their paper "Flooding in Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Camanava: Causes, Trends and Possible Solutions," they said too much extraction of groundwater by a growing population and economic activities are mainly causing the sinking.

They studied the tide gauge data showing the mean sea level rise since 1902 at Manila's South Harbor.

Siringan and Rodolfo said sea level "rose at the rate of about two millimeters per year—the rate of global sea level rise for the past century—until the early 1960s, but then rose at a rate about 10 times faster."

The rise, they said, "correlated very well with the rates at which water was pumped out of deep wells in Manila. In turn, rates of groundwater extraction correlate well with the growth of the population that utilizes it."

More than 23 million people or 30 percent of the country's population currently live around the Manila Bay, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The sinking, however, is not only unique to the Manila Bay areas, Siringan and Rodolfo noted.

Coastal regions such as in Venice, Bangkok, Shanghai, Tokyo and Osaka in Japan, Sta. Clara Valley in California, Houston, and New Orleans have been experiencing the same phenomenon due to the drawing out of groundwater.

As a result, areas surrounding the Manila Bay have experienced "more frequent, more widespread, higher and longer lasting" floods in the last three decades.

Siringan, Rodolfo and a team of researchers have pursued the study to assist local governments, communities and residents in easing the effects of the phenomenon, especially floods.

This, according to them, would continue to occur at an even faster rate but there are ways to slow it down and to ease the floods.

They said reforestation must be done in an inter-town, interprovince basis to increase the forest cover that will retain rainwater and delay its draining toward the lowlands.

They said another viable long-term solution is channel restoration. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Bomb scare in Caloocan election

By Tina Santos

A BOMB scare yesterday marred the voting in the Liga ng mga Barangay election in the Caloocan City Hall.

A City Hall insider said the bomb threat was phoned in after the government building opened in the morning and 188 barangay chairs were about to elect their Liga president.

But Caloocan City Hall police detachment commander Inspector Redulfin Coloma and public information officer Susan de Leon denied the bomb threat, which also circulated through text messages, saying that tight security was being implemented on orders of Mayor Rey Malonzo.

They said Malonzo had ordered all entry and exit points in City Hall to be secured even before the voting started.

They added that the election was generally peaceful.

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2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)	3 MR. DEEDS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	2 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 9 MORNINGS
3 9 MORNINGS	4 OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE) 5 POSSESSION	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 25-26 / 9PM	3 BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 4 9 MORNINGS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	3 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 4 POSSESSION
4 MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT	6 TUXEDO 7 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER		5 MR. DEEDS 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	5 MR. DEEDS

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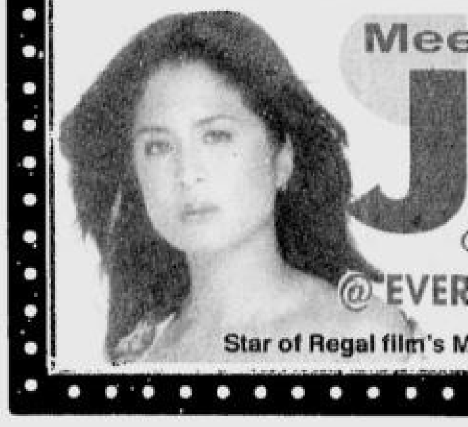

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9 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
10 POSSESSION

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11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

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10 TUXEDO
11 9 MORNINGS
12 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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1 9 MORNINGS
2 MR. DEEDS
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3 BALLISTIC
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5 PROSTI
6 THE TOUCH
7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
8 TUXEDO
9 BESTMAN
10 POSSESSION

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1 ENOUGH
2 FRAILTY
3 BESTMAN
4 VOODOO
5 LOLLIPOP
6 PROSTI
7 9 MORNINGS
8 TUXEDO

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2 CLOSED
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 THE ROOKIE
6 9 MORNINGS
7 CLOSED
8 ENOUGH

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2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 9 MORNINGS

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1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2 BALLISTIC
3 9 MORNINGS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 9 MORNINGS
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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5 9 MORNINGS
6 FRAILTY

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2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
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1 THE TOUCH
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3 TUXEDO
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7 9 MORNINGS
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2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 THE TOUCH
5 FRAILTY
6 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
7 MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS

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2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 MR. DEEDS
4 TUXEDO
5 BESTMAN
6 9 MORNINGS

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2 SIMONE
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH
5 PROSTI
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2 9 MORNINGS
3 ENOUGH
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5 VOODOO
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- 9 MORNINGS
- MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT

G4 GLORIETTA 4
- SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- MR. DEEDS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
- OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE)
- POSSESSION
- 6 TUXEDO
- 7 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER

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- THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
- Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 25-26 / 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
- BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30
- SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20
- BLOODWORK 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
- 9 MORNINGS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20
- MR. DEEDS 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
- SWEET HOME ALABAMA (SNEAK PREVIEW)
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
- POSSESSION
- 5 MR. DEEDS

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- 2 TUXEDO
- 3 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 4 9 MORNINGS
- 5 BESTMAN
- 6 BALLISTIC ECKS VS SEVER
- 7
- 8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
BALLISTIC
OCT 17.SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 18.SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 19 TO 20 .SCREENING TIME: 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
- 1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
- 2 SPY KIDS 2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
- 1 RESERVE
- 2 WINASAK NA PAGIBIG
- 3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 NAGAAPOY NA LANGIT
- 4 SENSUAL BEING

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
- 1 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
- 4 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 5 POSSESSION
- 6 MR. DEEDS
- 7 (DTS) TUXEDO
- 8 (SDDS) SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 9 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS SEVER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
- 2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
- 1 9 MONRINGS
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 3 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 4 (SDDS) SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 5 BESTMAN
- 6 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 7 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
- 8 TUXEDO
- 9 LOLLIPOP

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
- 4 BESTMAN
- 5 (SDDS) 9 MORNINGS
- 6 (DTS) MASIKIP MAINIT
- 7 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 3 (DTS) SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 4 BESTMAN
- 5 (SDDS) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
- 1 MASKIP MAINIT

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
- 1 MASKIP MAINIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
- Dilson MASKIP MAINIT
- Lords PROSTI
- Jennet MASIKIP MAINIT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 3 BALLISTIC ECKS VS SEVER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
- 1 (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 MASIKIP MAINIT ..
- 5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
- 1 RESERVE
- 2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
- 1 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 2 9 MORNINGS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
- 1 9 MONRINGS
- 2 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
- 5 (DTS) POSSESSION
- 6 TOUCH
- 7 MR. DEEDS

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
- 1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 2 BESTMAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
- 1 BESTMAN
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT...
- 3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
- 1 MASKIP MAINIT ...
- 2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
- 3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
- 4 BESTMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
- 1 BESTMAN
- 2 (DOLBY) 9 MORNINGS
- 3 (DTS) TUXEDO
- 4 MASIKIP MAINIT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
- 1 ENOUGH
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
- 4 (DTS) MR. DEEDS

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
- 1 (DOLBY EX) TUXEDO
- 2 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
- 3 BESTMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 BLOOD RELATION
- 3 TUKAAN
- 4 BESTMAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
- 1 (DOLBY) ROAD TO PERDITION
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- 3 (DTS) BIRTHDAY GIRL
- 4 BESTMAN
- 5 MASIKIP MAINIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT
- 3 BESTMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT ..
- 3 ROAD TO PERDITION

Mega Center Mall
(044) 463-3283
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
- 1 MR. DEEDS
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 (DTS) 9 MORNINGS
- 4 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
- 1 (DTS) BESTMAN
- 2 (DTS) RESERVE

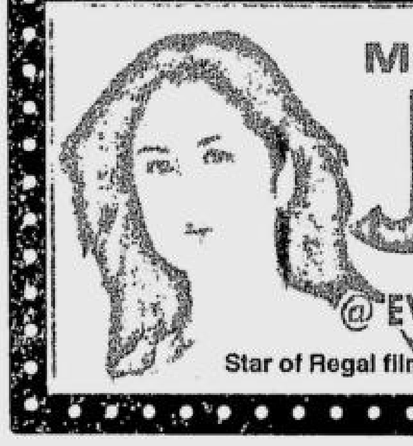
Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
- 1 PROSTI
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- 3 TUXEDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
- 1 PROSTI
- 2 BLOODWORK
- 3 9 MORNINGS
- 4 ENOUGH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
- 1 (DOLBY) MR. DEEDS
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 (DTS) BLOODWORK
- 4 TOUCH

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 BALLISTIC
- 4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 5 TUXEDO
- 6 9 MORNINGS
- 7 MR. DEEDS
- 8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 BALLISTIC
- 4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 5 THE TOUCH
- 6 PROSTI
- 7 MR. DEEDS
- 8 THE TOUCH
- 9 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 10 POSSESSION

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
- 1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 2 THE TOUCH
- 3 BESTMAN
- 4 TUXEDO
- 5 MR. DEEDS
- 6 9 MORNINGS
- 7 BALLISTIC
- 8 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 9 BLOOD RELATIONS
- 10 FRAILTY
- 11 PROSTI
- 12 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
- 1 MR. DEEDS
- 2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 3 POSSESSION
- 4 BALLISTIC
- 5 THE TOUCH
- 6 TUXEDO
- 7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 8 FRAILTY
- 9 9 MORNINGS
- 10 BESTMAN
- 11 PROSTI
- 12 9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
- 1 FRAILTY
- 2 POSSESSION
- 3 PROSTI
- 4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 5 MR. DEEDS
- 6 THE TOUCH
- 7 9 MORNINGS
- 8 BESTMAN
- 9 BALLISTIC
- 10 TUXEDO
- 11 9 MORNINGS
- 12 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
- 1 9 MORNINGS
- 2 MR. DEEDS
- 3 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 4 THE TOUCH
- 5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 6 TUXEDO
- 7 POSSESSION
- 8 BALLISTIC

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
- 1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 2 MR. DEEDS
- 3 BALLISTIC
- 4 9 MORNINGS
- 5 PROSTI
- 6 THE TOUCH
- 7 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 8 TUXEDO
- 9 BESTMAN
- 10 POSSESSION

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
- 1 ENOUGH
- 2 FRAILTY
- 3 BESTMAN
- 4 VOODOO
- 5 LOLLIPOP
- 6 PROSTI
- 7 9 MORNINGS
- 8 TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
- 1 VOODOO
- 2 CLOSED
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 PROSTI
- 5 THE ROOKIE
- 6 9 MORNINGS
- 7 CLOSED
- 8 ENOUGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
- 1 TUXEDO
- 2 THE TOUCH
- 3 BLOOD WORK
- 4 BESTMAN
- 5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 6 9 MORNINGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
- 1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
- 2 BALLISTIC
- 3 9 MORNINGS
- 4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
- 1 BALLISTIC
- 2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
- 3 9 MORNINGS
- 4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
- 1 THE TOUCH
- 2 VOODOO
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 PROSTI
- 5 9 MORNINGS
- 6 FRAILTY

SM BICUTAN
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
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633-8976

1 POSSESSION
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:50 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279
- 1 THX BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER 10:15; 12:30; 2:45; 5:00; 7:15; 9:30 LMF; 11:05 END
- 2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 3 PASSESSION
- 4 MR. DEEDS
- 5 9 MORNINGS
- 6 TUXEDO
- 7 THE TOUCH
- 8 MASIKIP MAINIT...
- 9 FRAILTY
- 10 BLOODWORK

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Ermita 536 -7809- 12
- 1 RESERVED
- 2 MR. DEEDS
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 POSSESSION
- 5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
- 6 9 MORNINGS
- 7 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Metro East - Marcos hwey 682- 8193 / 8280
- 1 THE TOUCH
- 2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 MR. DEEDS
- 5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
- 6 BESTMAN
- 7 9 MORNINGS
- 8 "O"

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
- 1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 2 BESTMAN
- 3 TUXEDO
- 4 THE TOUCH
- 5 FRAILTY
- 6 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
- 7 MR. DEEDS
- 8 9 MORNINGS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
- 1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
- 2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
- 3 MR. DEEDS
- 4 TUXEDO
- 5 BESTMAN
- 6 9 MORNINGS

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
- 1 THE ROOKIE
- 2 SIMONE
- 3 9 MORNINGS
- 4 ENOUGH
- 5 PROSTI
- 6 TUXEDO

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
- 1 THE ROOKIE
- 2 9 MORNINGS
- 3 ENOUGH
- 4 PROSTI
- 5 VOODOO
- 6 TUXEDO

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
- 1 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
- 2 BLOODWORK
- 3 9 MORNINGS
- 4 BIRTHDAY GIRL / TUXEDO
- 5 THE TOUCH
- 6 THE TOUCH

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Iloilo :	ILO
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Willie Revillame...

From page A27

'Vina: Revealed'

SHE possesses one of local show biz's most beautiful faces. She has enthralled people with her heartrending voice and with her high-energy dancing. She is one of local entertainment's biggest secrets. And this time, she's coming all out in the open in "Vina: Revealed."

The "Vina: Revealed" concert happens on Oct. 26 at The Folk Arts Theater at 8 pm. Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'0'
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
MR. DEEDS
12:15, 2:25, 4:35
6:45, 8:55
P 13

CINEMA 2
9 MORNINGS
12:00, 2:15, 4:30,
6:45,9:00
GP

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT 23, 2002 "SHEER" Lingerie Collection 8:30 PM
OCT 25, 2002 "SHOWDOWN" w/ Rachel Alejandro & Geneva Cruz 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

"SNEAK PREVIEW TODAY"
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
You Think You've Found True Love? Well, Think Again.

REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS TOMORROW
AYALA CINEMAS
GREENBELT 3 CINEMA
SCREENED TO **SOLD-OUT** AUDIENCES DURING
In the Mood for *Love*
"DIZZY WITH A ROMANTIC SPIRIT THAT'S BEEN MISSING FROM CINEMAS FOREVER."
--- *Elvis Mitchell, New York Times Film Critic*
WINNER at the CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
Best Actor - Tony Leung
Cannes Prix du Technique for Editing, Cinematography & Prod. Design
Directed by Wong Kar Wai
Starring Maggie Cheung & Tony Leung
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
Solar FILMS INC.

AYALA CINEMAS
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
On the 30th of October 2002.
Her·Future is for her to decide.
SNEAK PREVIEW TODAY AT AYALA CINEMAS.
For screening schedules, pls call 729-7777. MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

Instituto Cervantes ¡FIESTA! AYALA CINEMAS ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

October 20 (Sun)
La Ardilla Roja 11:30pm
Bwana 2:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuello 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 24 (Thu.)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
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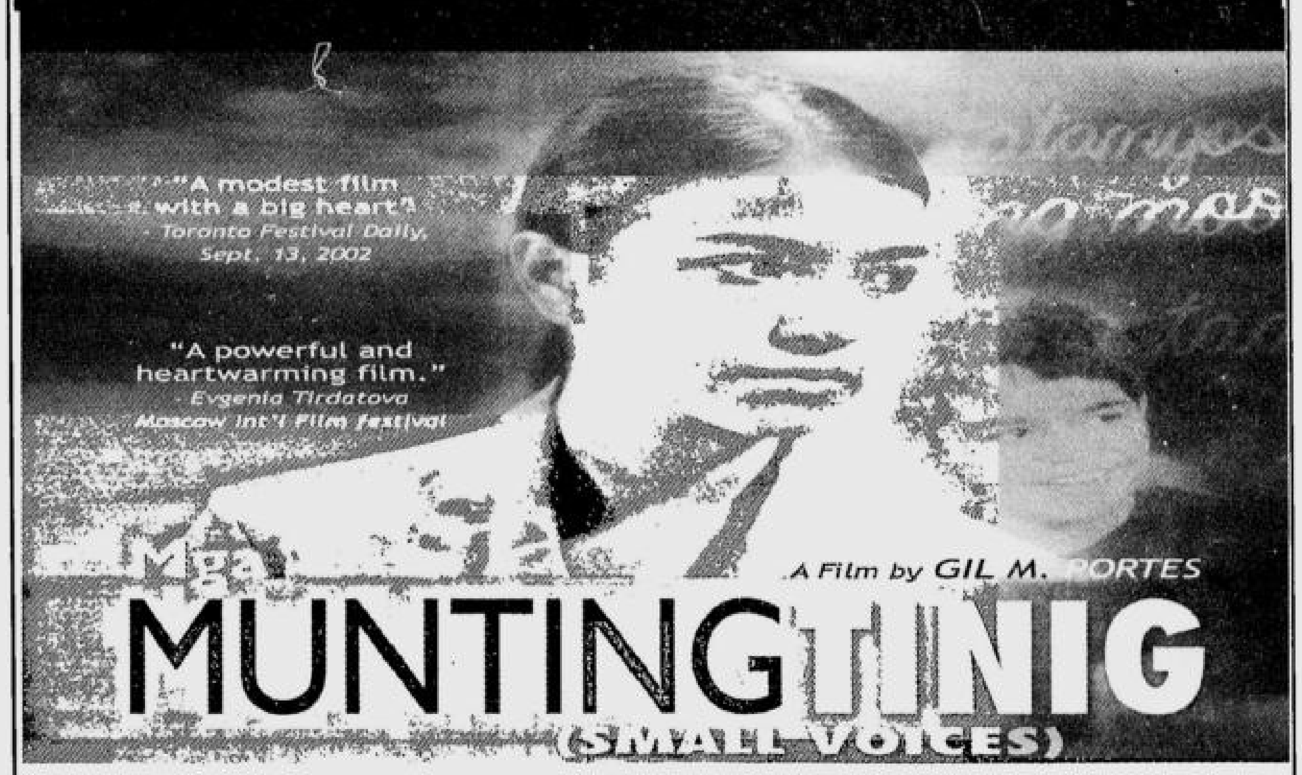

"A modest film with a big heart."
- Toronto Festival Daily, Sept. 13, 2002
"A powerful and heartwarming film."
- Evgenia Tirdatova Moscow Int'l Film festival
A Film by GIL M. PORTES
Mga MUNTING TINIG (SMALL VOICES)

"The American Film Institute (AFI) is honored to include 'Small Voices' in its list of NEW ASIAN FILM CLASSICS."
- *Nancy Collet, Director of Programming, (AFI) Los Angeles Int'l Film Festival*
"Smoothly and sensitively directed...a profoundly affecting and hopeful film."
- *Steve Gravestock, Program Manager, Toronto Int'l Film Festival*
"Very unique. It should do well in the OSCAR race for Best Foreign Language Film."
- *Jacob M. Nellendam, Nordic Correspondent, Screen International*
"It's an uplifting, optimistic film, much needed in our current times."
- *Liz Czach, Programmer, Perspective Canada*
"A rare Philippine film. No violence, no gratituos sex, no overbearing melodramatic crying."
- *Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.*
www.smallvoices.cjb.net

MAY MGA BAGAY NA,
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Robin Padilla. Judy Ann Santos. ...together.
Isang wish come true.

Jeannie Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?
Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava
DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.
VIVA Rexona REV-X LEONARDO
SHOWING NA BUKAS !

Stars add young blood to Red Cross

By Marinel R. Cruz

AFTER Piolo Pascual and the late Rico Yan, now come Onemig Bondoc, L.A. Mumar and John Pratts, and more stars are adding their young blood to the Red Cross.

Onemig, L.A. and John are the newest celebrity volunteers of Red Cross Youth.

"To be a Red Cross Youth (RCY) volunteer requires dedication, determination and overflowing love," said Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who is also the RCY vice chair, during the recent opening of the Red Cross Youth month this year, held at the Philippine National Red Cross headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

Onemig, L.A. and John were all present during the opening ceremony to apply as members of the Red Cross Youth Star Volunteers Circle (RSVC). John also filled up the application form of his sister Camille Pratts in her behalf.

ZUBIRI

BONDOC

PRATTS

MUMAR

RSVC comprise young movie and TV talents dedicated to encouraging other youngsters to join various RCY programs nationwide. The four movie stars, including Camille, belong to the first batch of RSCV.

For three months starting this October, Onemig, L.A., John and Camille will each promote an RCY program.

Onemig will be the RCY endorser for drug abuse prevention and the RCY "Kabarangay" program; L.A. for voluntary blood donation ("Pledge 25") and HIV/AIDS prevention programs; John for leadership training programs; and Camille for the moral recovery, values and character building program.

The RCY endorser for 2003 will be chosen from among them in December.

Onemig is also the official youth spokesperson of the Department of Education and the National Youth Commission. He has been to the provinces of Cagayan, Quezon, Butuan and Davao, to campaign against illegal drugs and to promote the importance of education and environment protection.

The RCY "Kabarangay" program that Onemig will endorse will train youth volunteers in disaster preparedness and emergency response procedures.

L.A., who is also a spokesperson for a youth-oriented organization called Youth on Fire, said he hopes to succeed current Pledge 25 endorser Piolo Pascual when the latter turns 26 next year and ends his one-year endorsement deal with the RCY Commission.

"I'll share with you a little secret," L.A. told a group of RCY volunteers. "I have low-blood pressure. But as soon as the doctor says okay, I'll start donating my blood."

In Pledge 25, youths pledge to donate blood three to four times a year, from age 18 until 25. Members are also taught to look for other volunteer donors. When Rico Yan turned 26 and ended his stint as Pledge 25 endorser, Piolo took over.

John has never been involved in any government youth-oriented programs until now but promises to work as hard as Onemig and L. A. by promoting RCY's leadership training programs.

"I want to make a difference," John said. "I'll do whatever I can."

"Through the help of these stars we hope to encourage more youngsters to join the Red Cross and help it introduce its programs especially to remote areas of the country," said RCY manager Romeo Orilla.

The RCY comprises about 80 percent of the total volunteer force of the PNRC, which at present has approximately 6.7 million members, according to Orilla.

The RCY month celebration has the theme "Red Cross Youth: Enhancing Leadership and Volunteer Capabilities in Responding to Community Needs." It is celebrated in October, with the 87 PNRC chapters nationwide undertaking youth activities.

Why Paolo Bediones is so successful on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IS PAOLO Bediones working too hard? On TV, he's all over the place: He's a quizmaster on the "Digital LG Quiz Show" every Sunday morning. On Saturday afternoons, he's a show biz talk show host on "S-Files." And every weekday late in the afternoon, he co-hosts the 30-minute magazine show, "Extra-Extra."

And don't look now, because Paolo will soon be hosting a new "reality TV" show that will challenge its contestants by way of various daunting tests.

This, on top of his many additional activities, which include out-of-town shoots *and* trips abroad to interview big stars in Hollywood and elsewhere. Does the guy ever get to sleep?

He does. And, truth to tell, he even thrives on his overfull schedule, for the simple reason that each show he does is different from the others, so he doesn't get bored.

So, is Paolo Bediones working too hard? Perhaps—but he isn't about to collapse from all that demanding work, because he's enjoying himself too much.

And he has this gift of being able to firmly focus on the work at hand. We saw him in action recently during the taping of the 2002 grand finals of the "Digital LG Quiz Show."

The finals took more than five hours to tape, but Paolo remained focused and on top of the situation from beginning to end.

That wasn't easy, because nerves were fraying and tempers were flaring, since a lot was at stake in the grand finals.

So, Paolo had a lot to think about other than just his own performance as quizmaster. He kept everyone's spirits up with some well-timed jokes and pep talks during taping break, and continually motivated the contestants to do their best.

With his help, they did, and the finals came off well. (This season-ender will be shown around Nov. 10).

Even more impressively, after the long and demanding taping session was over, Paolo couldn't rest because he had to tape an inspirational message intended for the young students in the Visayas and Mindanao.

There was no script, so Paolo had to gather his thoughts on the spot to cover the stipulated talking points of his address. Despite the fact that he was exhausted and everything was ad-lib, he hit all the talking points and acquitted himself very well, indeed.

After seeing Paolo in action, we now know why he's gotten so far in the relatively short time that he's worked on television, and why he's successfully hosted different kinds of shows. To succeed like Paolo Bediones has, enthusiasm and focus are everything.

Feedback

FROM **E.J. Chacon** of Cebu City: "The news on television is no longer an objective report of the day's event, but crime stories are being milked for all of the 'human drama' and even emotions they're worth. More time is being devoted to these 'soap opera' crime stories than to legitimate news events.

"Sometimes, the TV news people even get in on the act. The parties involved are provoked into shouting at each other, begging, pleading, slapping—it's really like a TV soap with the additional 'appeal' of being reality-based.

"The problem is, where do we now turn for objective news reports on television?"

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Willie Revillame should go back to his senses

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

AFTER my column came out last Thursday, where I exposed that **Willie Revillame** is throwing his weight around again, the comedian/TV host kept badgering me on my cellphone. In the spirit of fair play, here is his side of the story.

"My staff didn't resign," Willie said. "Some of them were fired because they were not competent enough."

So there. But before he can resort to some damage-control ploy, he should learn how to control his tongue. Apparently, Willie is just trying to save his neck. I was appalled to find out from my highly placed source that he is indeed acting so high and mighty again. Even some members of his former staff in "Willingly Yours" vouched that they couldn't take his arrogant ways anymore and so they chose to resign. They said they would rather lose income than their self-respect.

According to my unimpeachable source, Willie belittles his staff, saying things to this effect: "If not for me, you all would be jobless. The life of a show is the host and not the staff."

He also reportedly freaks out when the staff members try to get chummy with him and call him "Bro." The comebacking TV host would reportedly shoot back, "Don't you dare call me Bro. We are not on the same level!"

For a while, I really thought that Willie has mended his ways. I even did a one-on-one interview with him in an earlier column as my way of helping him get his act together after he had been out of the scene for over a year.

During our interview, when his new show had just started, he seemed so meek and mild. Maybe, the thought of his being jobless for so long was still fresh in his mind. All of a sudden the ratings of his public service show grew. And so did Willie's ego.

Sad to say, success can cause amnesia in some people. If Willie does not get back to his senses soon enough, he should be ready for another aftershock.

Guess list

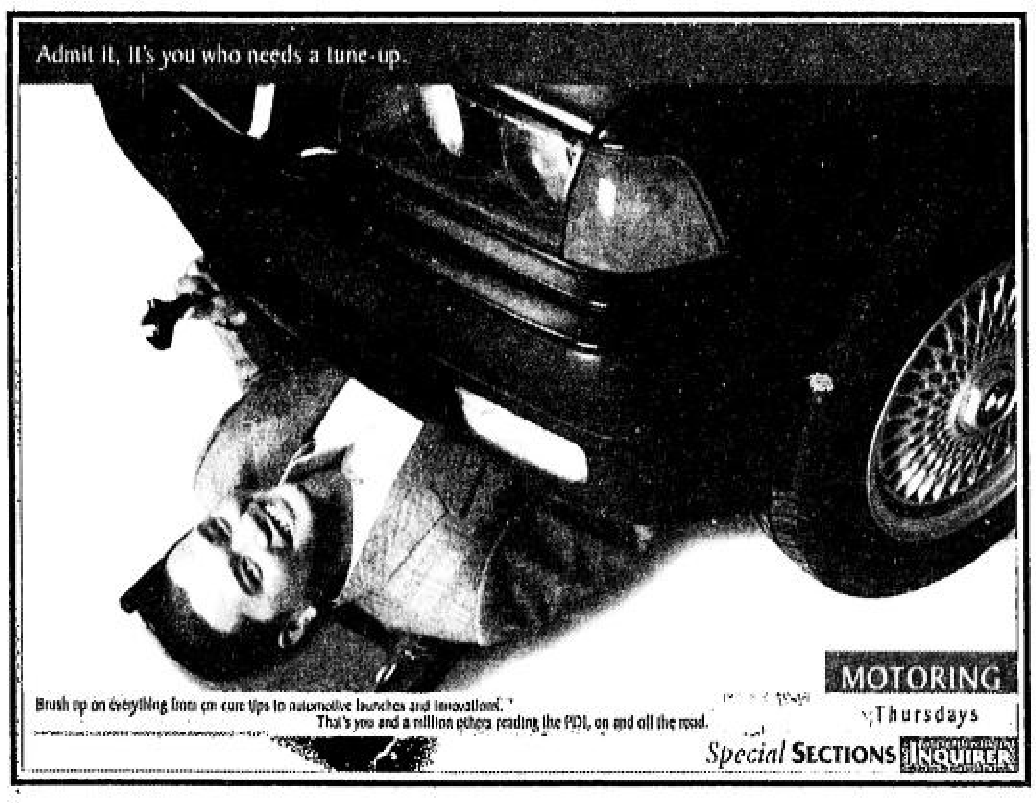
GUESS who this sexy star is who has the audacity to try and snatch a very popular cager (of the RP team) from his rightful girl? Since the player does not give her tickets because he does not want to see her during his games, she buys her own tickets and goes to the ball games clad in cheap skimpy outfits with matching dark shades. The mystery girl look?

Imagine being dressed as if for a sleazy joint amid all other girls in casual outfits. She even has the nerve to use the "private goodnight term" of the cager's "real girl," which is "Na night," in a magazine interview.

Just like in basketball, Ms Sexy Star should know when she has committed too many fouls already. Or is she a born loser?

Guess who this probinsiyana girlfriend of a TV host is who is so notorious in her hometown for sleeping around? So their long-distance set-up is working to her advantage. Funny thing is, she is so possessive and has frequent jealousy attacks. It's just a cover-up for her infidelity.

WILLY/ A26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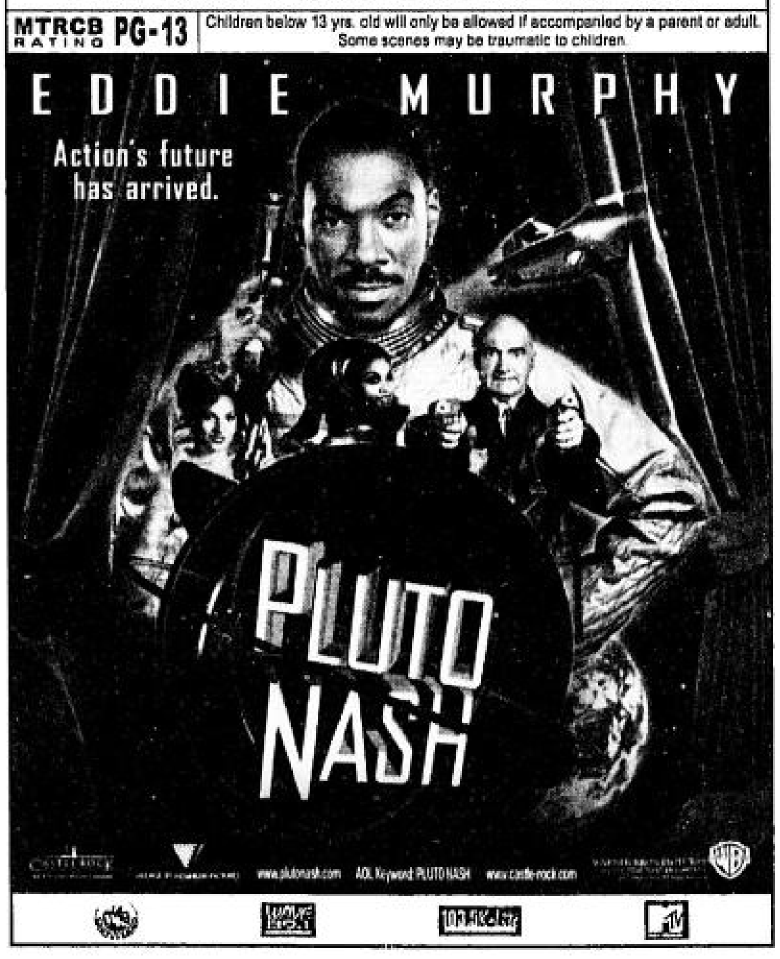

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Aubrey, Maui, Diana in 16 hot months

DIANA ZUBIRI

AUBREY MILES

THE YEAR 2003 is going to be a hectic scorcher, with Maui Taylor, Aubrey Miles and Diana Zubiri heating up all of its days.

Maui, Aubrey and Diana are splashed in all their glory on the pages of the 2003 calendar of FHM (For Him Magazine).

The trio's page-turner follows the hot success of the magazine's Assunta de Rossi calendar.

The photographs in the red-hot calendar were taken by fashion photographer Xander Angeles, with the picturesque province as backdrop. It has 18 images of the three stars all in all, filling up a total of 16 months, from November-December 2002 to January-February 2004.

The FHM calendar is set to be released late this October. The October issue of the magazine also happened to be a huge seller, with more than 100,000 copies sold, according to its publishers, Summit Publishers Co.

Another screen siren, Maricar de Mesa, was the October cover girl.

The FHM 2003 calendar will be retailed for P295.

Angelina Jolie's fears

LONDON—Actress Angelina Jolie, who is building a house in her adopted son's native Cambodia, said Saturday she was terrified he could step on a land mine there.

Jolie plans to live part-time in the Southeast Asian nation with 1-year-old Maddox and said she had had the land around their home cleared of mines.

"I'm terrified that he could go for a walk and step on something, so I'm very aware of what the parents there must feel," she said during a visit to a training center for mine removers in Lostock Gralam, Central England. "It's so unnecessary and so cruel."

Jolie, who recently filed for divorce from actor Billy Bob Thornton, adopted Maddox after working on a film in his home country.

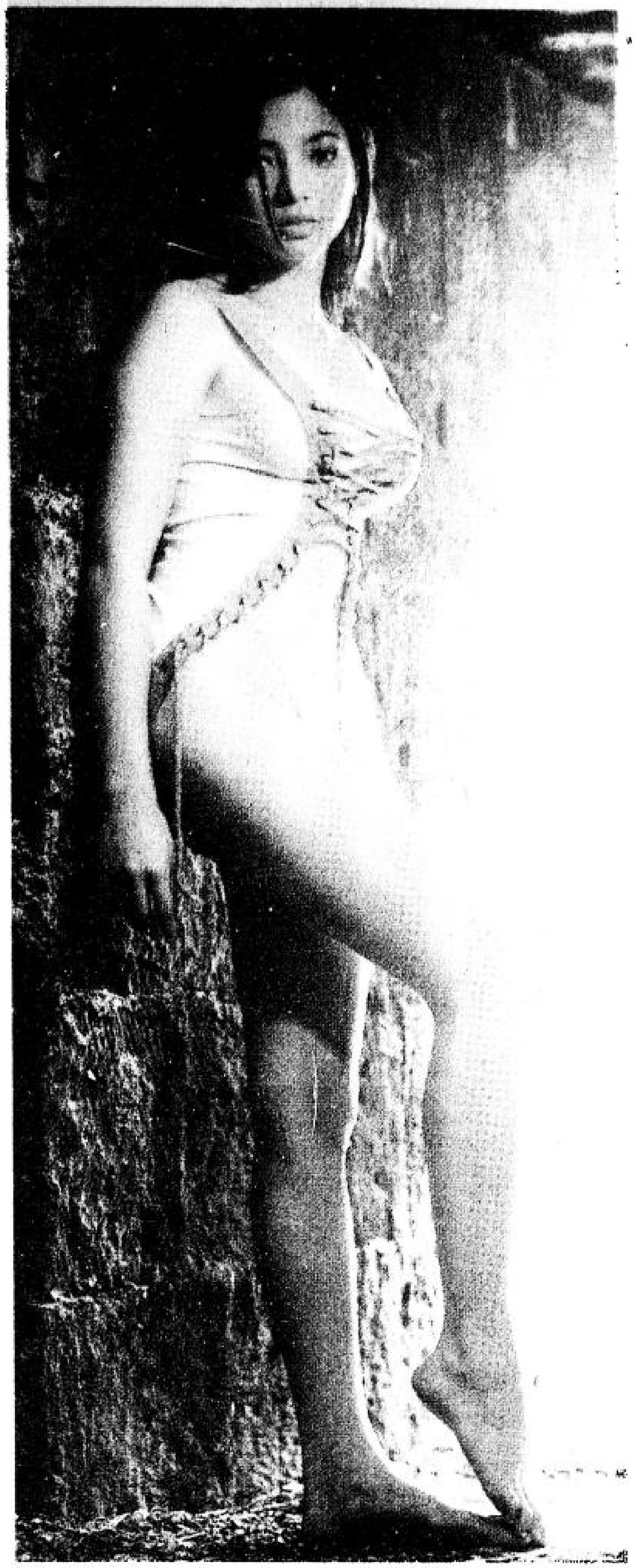
"Cambodia, Afghanistan and Angola are among the most heavily mined countries in the world," she said.

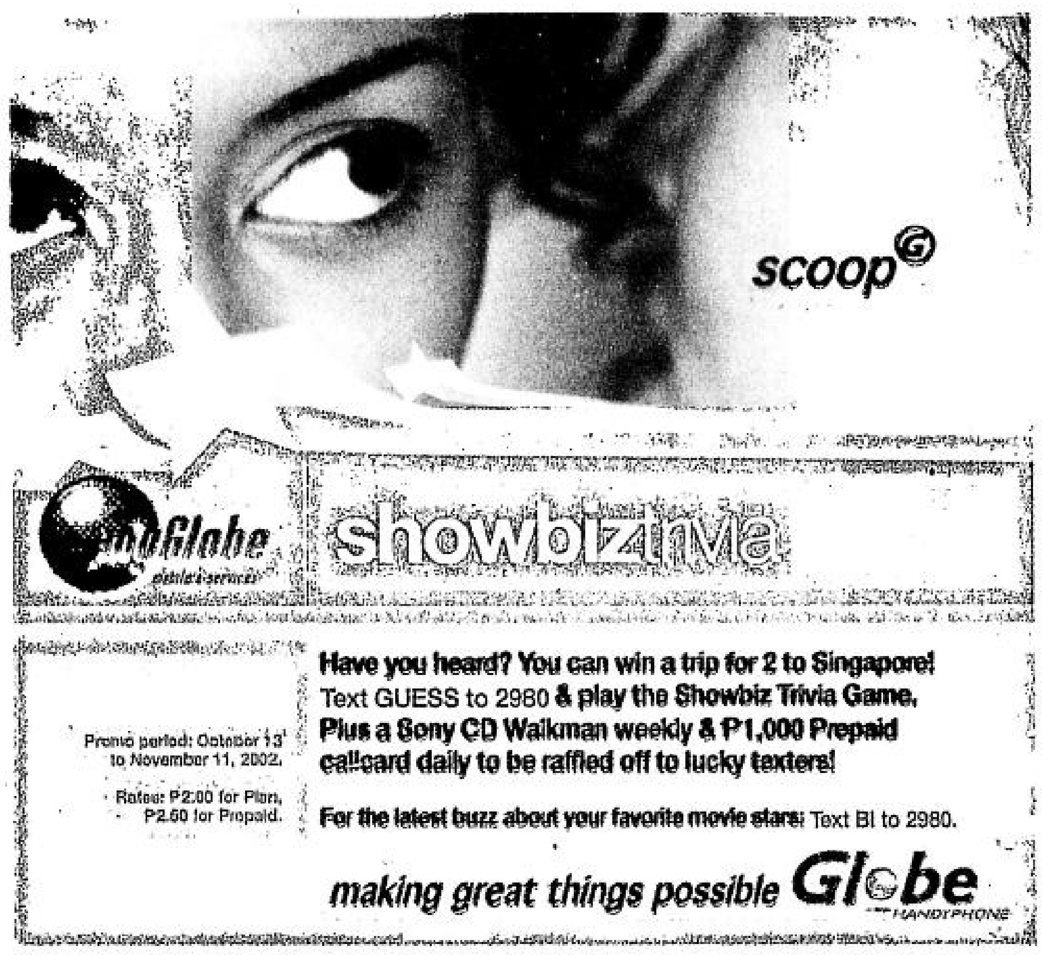
"When we were filming we were told, 'You can't go here, you can't go there, you have to stick to the footpaths,' and I didn't understand why.

"They explained about the land mines and I just wanted to help."

Jolie, a supporter of the Adopt-A-Minefiled charity, wore a flak jacket and helmet as she learned how de-miners remove explosives from the soil.

She won a supporting-actress Oscar in 2000 for "Girl, Interrupted." *AP*


MAUI TAYLOR



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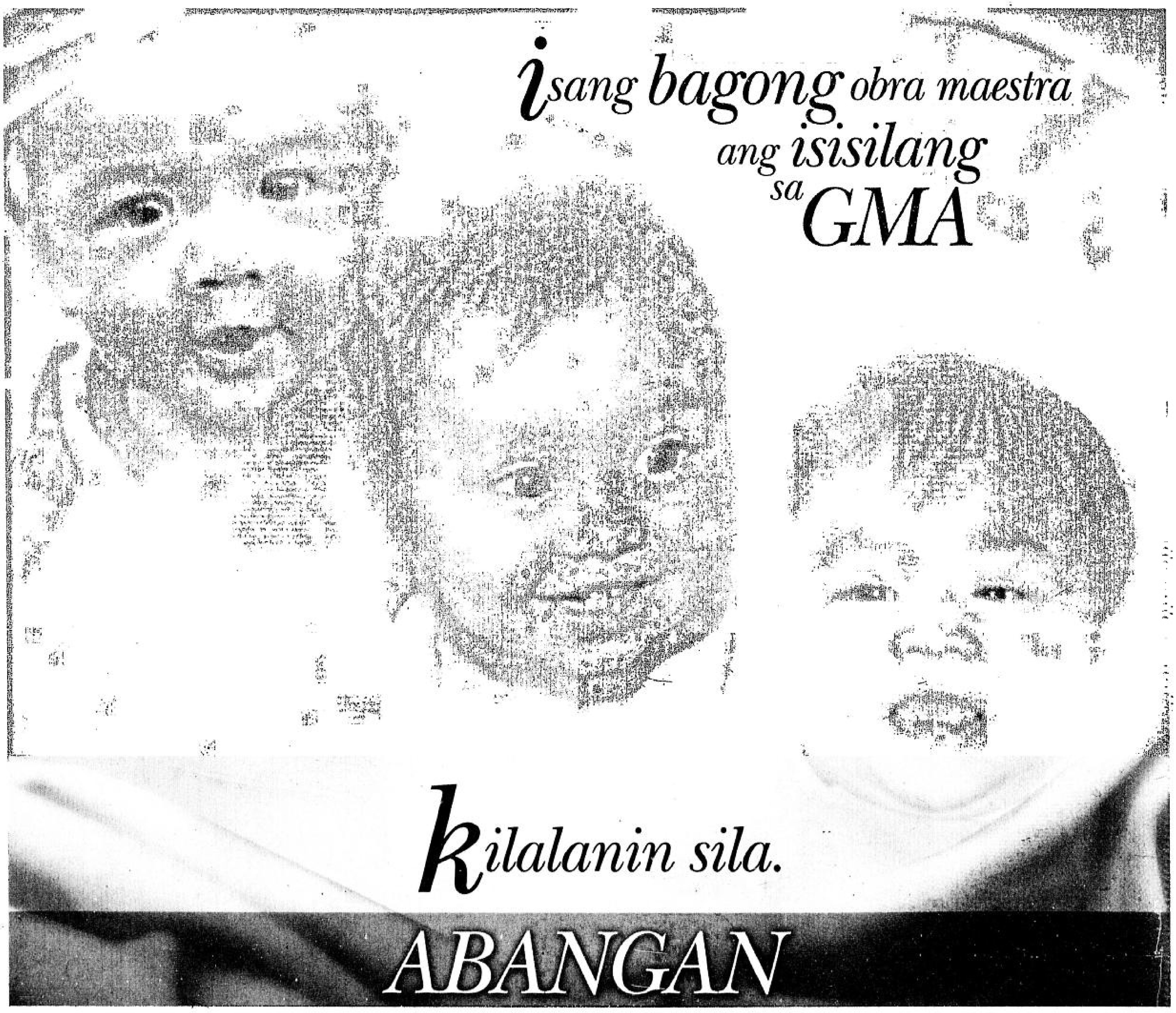

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Ayala Land bags ₱1.8-B Boni land deal

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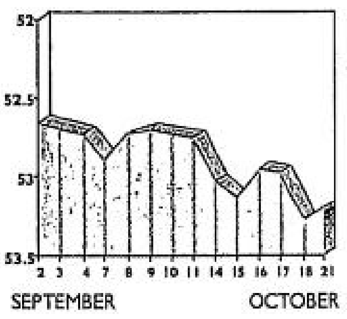

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The refinancing initiatives implemented have resulted in debt maturing over the 2003-2004 period reducing to $541 million, on a pro forma basis after netting out KfW and bank financing, from $977 million at December 2001.

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FITCH/ B5

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In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI vice president and chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said the notice of award had been issued on the property, called Lot B, which the BCDA had been trying to privatize since 2000.

In a separate interview, Ysmael said ALI planned to use the property for new residential developments catering to the middle- and high-end income markets.

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The property covered by the new joint-venture deal is adjacent to Lot C, a 9.9-hectare parcel which was likewise awarded to ALI in 2000 under a leasehold structure and is now being developed into a regional shopping mall near the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

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The execution of the joint-development deal between ALI and the BCDA would still be subject to both parties agreeing on certain issues, the disclosure noted, without elaborating.

Under the joint-venture agreement, the BCDA's contribution will be the land while ALI will take care of the development and marketing requirements and will remit to the BCDA the promised windfall.

ALI, one of the country's most liquid property developers, likewise has a pending proposal to acquire the 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. held by debt-ridden Metro Pacific Corp., the local property unit of the First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

Credit card firms passing 'costs of mistakes'

By Clarissa S. Batino

(Second of three parts)

B-One

NOTHING can go wrong with competition, most economists believe, as it brings down prices and makes services more efficient.

This may be the case for most, but certainly not for credit card companies. Competition has forced these firms to tear down the walls of prudential credit screening and give access even to those who have trouble with accountability.

As a result, costs have gone up instead of down, and services—judging from mounting complaints of harassment over delayed payments and false promises—have been unsatisfactory.

In their battle to build up customer base, some credit card companies have sustained bad loans equivalent to more than 70 to 80 percent of their receivables and, in the process, have charged their good customers for the costs of their mistakes.

There are 16 commercial banks, six credit card subsidiaries and 11 thrift banks currently competing for a share of the densely packed Philippine market of 80 million.

The feverish focus on the credit card business is a consequence of a lower appetite among banks to lend.

Most banks complain that the borrowers whom they feel safe lending to do not want or have no need for a loan at the moment.

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Consumer spending grew 3.6 percent in the first six months of the year, and analysts expect it to expand by 4 percent in the second half.

As banks tighten their exposure to risky borrowers from the regular lending side, they are making up for it by beefing up their credit card business, believing that retail banking with a huge spread is their key in

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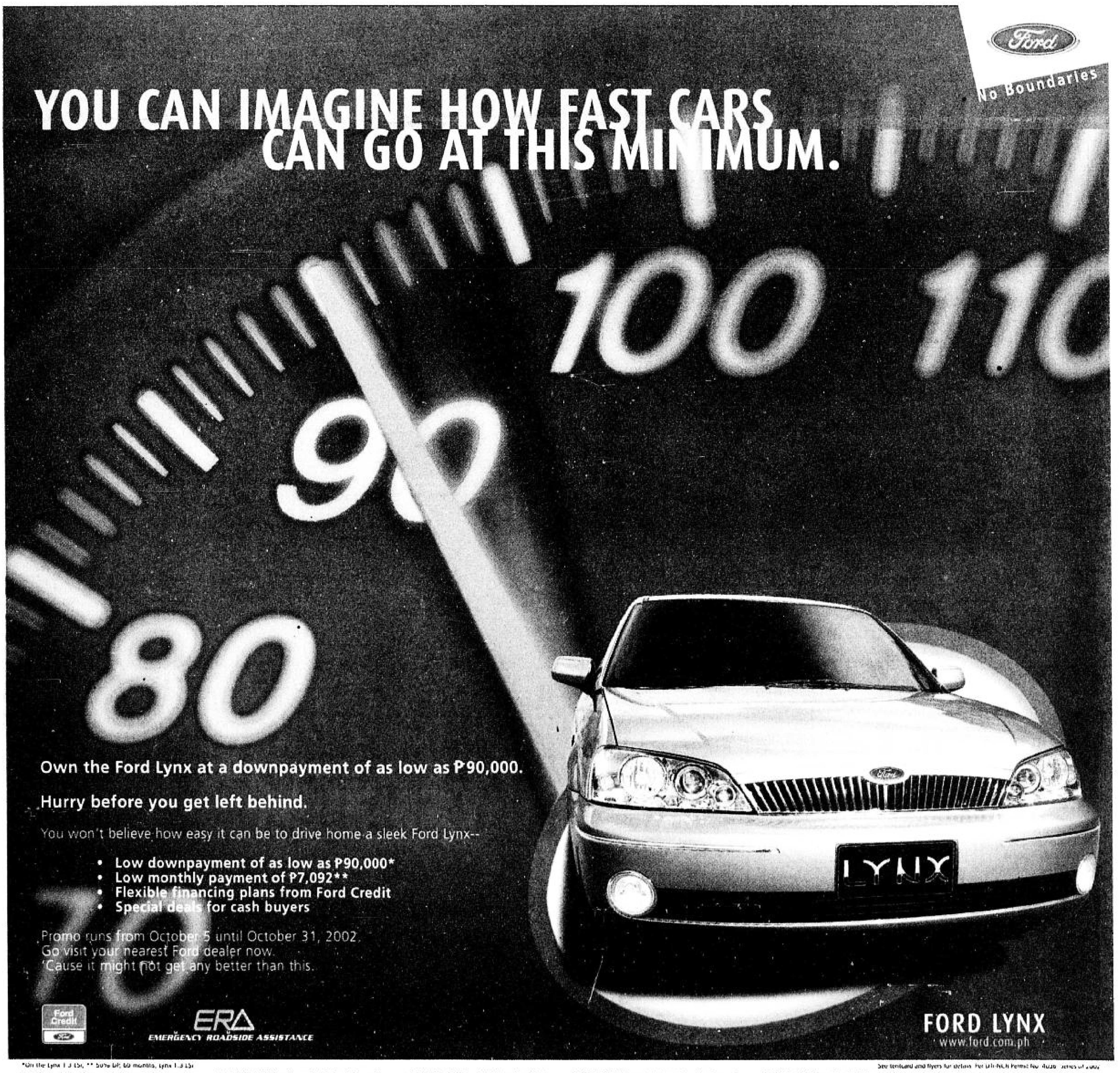

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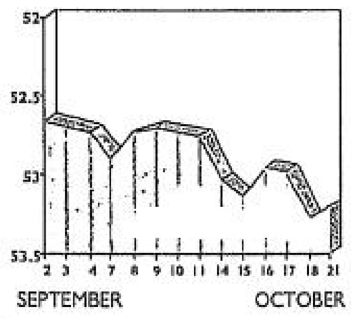

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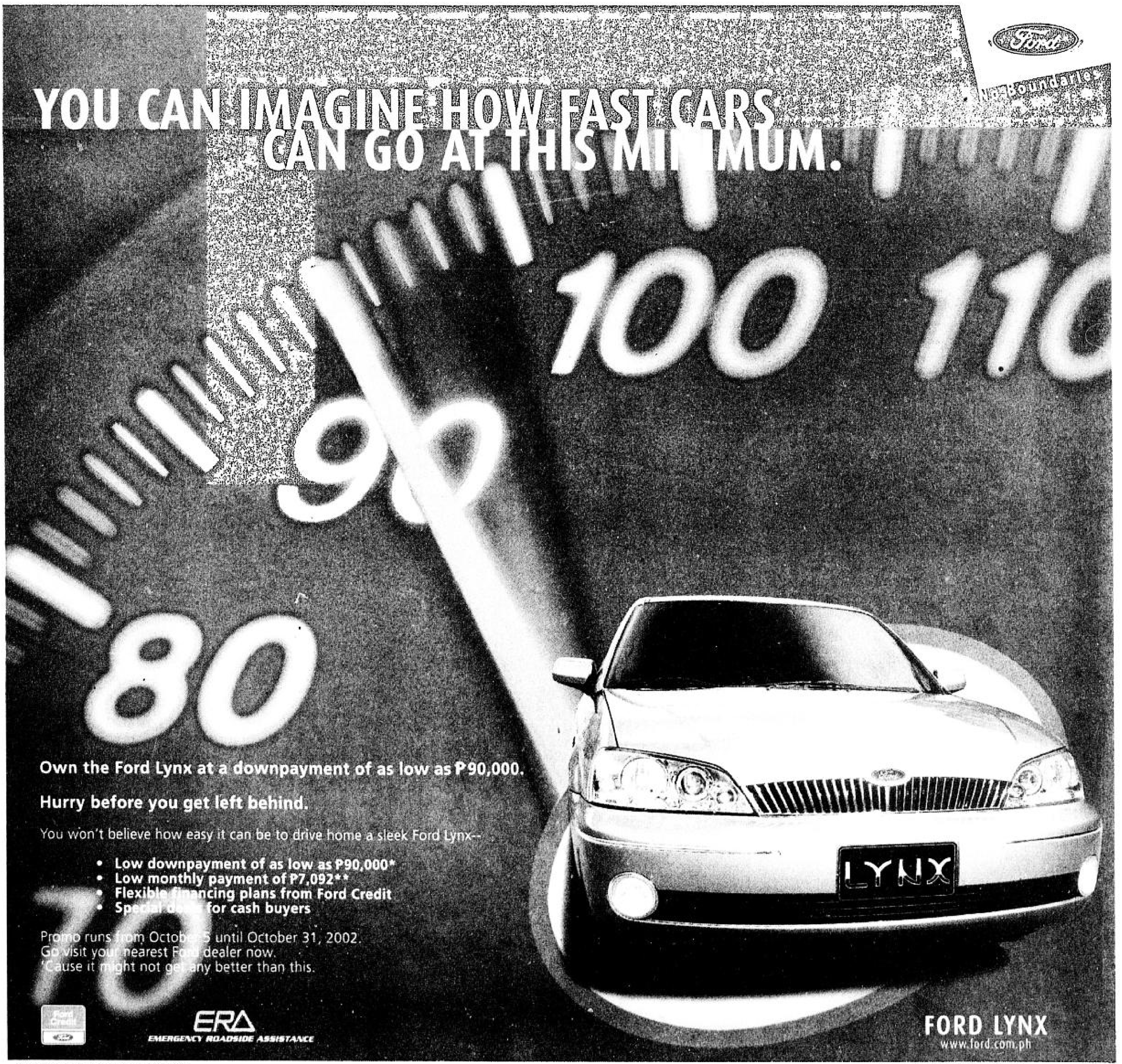
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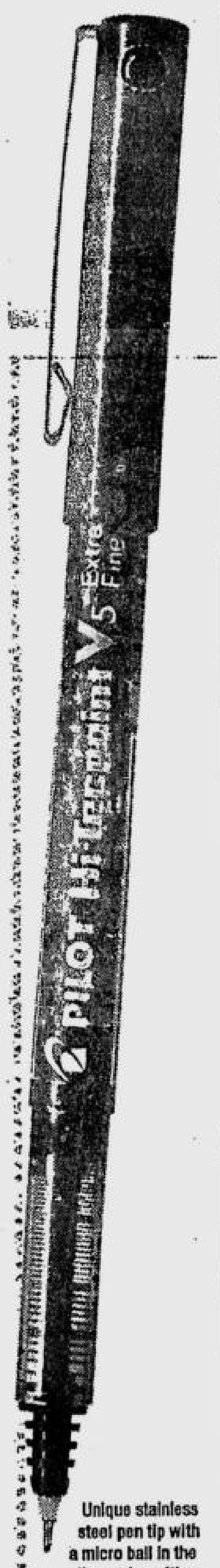

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Fuel rush in

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta is suffering from an acute inflammation of the budget deficit. It even had to cancel the presidential trip to Europe last month.

Later this week, however, Gloriaetta is scheduled to fly to Los Cabos, Mexico. I don't think she has a choice. The President must attend the Apec leaders' summit there.

Even with the political assassins waiting in ambush for Gloriaetta to make just about any mistake, such as a lapse in grammar, she must go to the Apec summit.

All right, in the summit, Gloriaetta thinks the talks are usually free-wheeling. Most likely she will freely wheel her meetings with the other leaders toward two concerns.

She tells me the other night, while munching a piece of *lumpia*, that she expects the other Apec leaders to talk about regional security.

Down here we simply know "security" as bombing and kidnapping. In short, terrorism! It's all about the fear which the Abu Sayyaf is trying to sow in our hearts.

* * *

HER other target in the free-wheeling summit is closely related to regional security. And that is the supply of oil. Many in business fear the supply will be disrupted.

Even in the innermost circles of this cute administration, they believe that the United States will go to war against the government of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

We are talking about the Middle East, where fuel is much cheaper than fresh water. The region has the world's biggest oil reserves.

Already, energy experts of this cute administration are trying to find new sources of oil for the Philippines. That war is certain to disrupt the world supply of oil.

In the Apec summit, Gloriaetta will get every chance to talk to the leaders of Indonesia, China and Venezuela, for instance. Their countries happen to produce oil.

Because oil equals fuel, we are in a rush to secure new supply contracts. We import more than half of our fuel.

* * *

BY the way, do you remember the justification for the sale of the government's controlling interest in the highly profitable Petron to the Saudi Arabian company Aramco?

That was done during the administration of Kuya Eddie. Controversies hounded the privatization of Petron. There was an insinuation of railroading.

At that time, the government said that this country needed for the state-owned fuel company Petron a foreign "strategic partner."

Of course Aramco, being a big oil supplier itself, would assure us of a steady oil supply, in case anything wrong would happen in the future.

Today is that future. My contacts in business are wondering whatever happened to such an assurance. What happened was, now we need to look out for ourselves. Nice!

* * *

FUEL also happens to be an issue in the new airport terminal called Naia 3. Raising it are the international airlines, through the Board of Airline Representatives, or BAR.

Piatco must listen to them. They will be the terminal's biggest users. They will provide Piatco a lot of the money to pay for its huge debts.

If things do not miscarry, as things stand in the new terminal, fueling for a flight across the Pacific Ocean, from Manila to the US west coast, will take forever.

Airlines cannot afford to wait for eternity just to refuel. They will lose their shirts. Where have you ever seen an airplane without clothes on?

But in fairness to Piatco, which holds the BOT contract for Naia 3, the government is partly to blame for the problem over fuel supply in the new terminal.

* * *

UNDER the BOT contract of Piatco, the government must build a new fuel farm at the airport to serve the new terminal.

That should be the lookout of the MIAA, or the Manila International Airport Authority, which is a government-owned corporation running the airport.

MIAA got a TRO from the court which stopped its construction of the new fuel farm. The residents near the site did not like it. Rightly so! It was dangerous.

The other way is for Naia 3 to get the fuel from the present fuel farm of JOCASP, which is the nickname of the association of the oil companies.

That is the same fuel farm which was the target of a bomb threat in December 2000, in which a "jeep-bomb" was reportedly discovered.

Anyway, the government can build an underground tunnel from the fuel farm to Naia 3. Unfortunately, it will have to run across an important runway. Not good!

* * *

THUS to link the existing fuel farm with the fuel hydrants of Naia 3, MIAA will have to sacrifice runway 13-31, which the new terminal will need for taxiing.

Instead of the fast and reliable fuel hydrants, the alternative will be for the airline companies to use tankering. You know—loading fuel from tanks.

Based on studies of the BAR, a trans-Pacific flight will take all of six hours to refuel. This, in airline time, is the equivalent of eternity.

* * *

SO in this our war against terrorism, who do you think is winning. It's clear the enemy now has the edge. Just listen to all the news.

Media sounds every bit hysterical over the bombings—or even just bomb threats. Politicians are screaming their heads off about a national ID system and the anti-terrorism law. The business sector, as you can see in the peso exchange rate, is close to panic.

Are you sure we have the advantage here? So who is showing the obvious signs of weakness here?

It is the nature of the beast. The terrorists love to see us in tears and fearful and about to give up. That is what terrorism is all about.

Maybe we are hurting inside. Innocent people— the poor more than the rich, in fact— are the victims of the apparent terrorist attacks. Why can't they just terrorize the politicians? Even ex-senators who have nothing better to do?

I am not sure if we have to show it to the enemy. Me, I'd rather not give them the satisfaction of seeing us being affected by all their cruelty.

Shell moving forward on IPO proposal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday said it expected to do an initial public offering in the first quarter of next year upon the recommendation of its adviser.

"That would be at the earliest and it would still depend on the conditions in the market at that time," Pilipinas Shell country chair Eliseo Santiago said in an interview.

"We have been discussing with the Department of Energy and we agreed that we should only go in ... if the situation was such that it would be a successful IPO," Santiago said. "Otherwise, it would not serve the purpose."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. had been urging Pilipinas Shell and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. to list in the stock exchange and boost local investments.

But Santiago said the firm's management still had to seek approval from the board of directors when it meets in November.

"If the board approves, we would then have to secure the go-ahead from the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange," the official added.

This would take at least three months from the board's approval, Santiago said.

"(By then) Shell will be prepared to go and we will do so as soon as the market is ready," he said.

In April, Santiago said the local oil refiner could not proceed with its IPO this year primarily because of time constraints.

Yesterday, he said Shell adviser Salomon Smith Barney's reading of the market showed that if the IPO was done within the year, it would only move funds from existing players to Shell instead of generating new investments.

Also in April, Santiago would not give a timeframe on when it hoped to do the IPO, saying it was a matter of right timing.

A wrongly timed public listing would have negative results rather than a hoped for improvement in the market, he reiterated.

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Current Market Value as Of October 21, 2002

Club	Buying	Selling
Alabang Golf CC "A"	1,400,000	1,500,000
Alabang Golf CC "B"	–	1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	725,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	280,000
Capitol Hills Golf Club	95,000	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	185,000	Please call
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,800,000
Club Filipino	150,000	190,000
Eastridge Golf"B"	Please call	150,000
Forest Hills CC"A"	190,000	200,000
Forest Hills CC "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	270,000
Manila Golf Ind	10,500,000	Please call
Manila Golf Corp	10,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Polo Club	2,600,000	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	520,000	550,000
Metropolitan Club	110,000	–
Orchard Golf CC "A"	–	200,000
Punta Fuego	420,000	–
Quezon City Sports Club	190,000	–
Riviera Golf CC "A"	–	180,000
Riviera Golf CC "B"	140,000	–
Sta Elena Golf Club "A"	1,500,000	–
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	–
Valle Verde CC	140,000	–
Valley Golf CC	310,000	340,000
Wack Wack Golf CC	6,500,000	Please call

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of October 22, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,500,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	650,000	700,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	260,000
CANLUBANG	-	600,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000	-
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000 **
EVERCREST A	-	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	80,000/150,000*/250,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000 *	220,000/250,000 *
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/280,000 *	-
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	600,000/700,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000/100,000 *	115,000/130,000 *
MIMOSA IND/C3***	-	100,000/300,000***
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/425,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C*	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
PUNTA FUEGO	-	Please call
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	225,000
RIVIERA A/B*/C**	-	185,000/350,000*/400,000 **
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	425,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000 **
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	80,000/250,000*/350,000 **
STA ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*		1.8M
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP *	-	200,000/500,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CO/GOLF*	800,000 *	380,000/850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	145,000	150,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Calatagan, Camp John Hay (Free), Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera (Free), Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, & Others & NEED LESSOR – Manila Golf Individual, Alabang & Rockwell
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GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF OCT. 21, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,500,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	240,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350,000	300,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	550,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A""B""C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	300,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		310,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,900,000	

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, October 21, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	17.75	55,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	40.5	39	40	604,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	71,100
First E-Bank Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	31	31.5	73,200
Philippine National Bank	24	24	24	24	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	11	11	11	11	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	14,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	610,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1220	1200	1215	3,400
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	990	980	985	3,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	7,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	400	387.5	390	19,840
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	900,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	229	229	223	224	169,240
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	5,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15	15	20,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	20.5	20.75	347,300
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,109,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	216,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	248,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	21,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	37,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	15,400
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	54.5	87,400
San Miguel Corp. B	58.5	59	58	59	884,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	2,401,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.2	0.17	0.2	560,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	374,800
Ionics Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	120,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,850,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,030,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.73	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	133,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	115,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	90,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	25,300
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	42,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	70,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	29,500
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	4,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	2,037,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	4,770,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	550,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	520,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.95	5,355,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	50,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	950,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0022	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	81,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,476,280	37,639,850.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	22,290,080	133,207,720.00
PRO	13,862,000	38,360,700.00
Mining	51,460,000	579,100.00
OIL	100,000,000	231,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	189,088,360	210,019,170.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	398.70	DOWN 5.02
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,410.49	DOWN 17.70
PRO	447.29	DOWN 2.84
Mining	1,084.81	DOWN 8.22
OIL	1.16	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	630.87	UP 5.38
Composite	1,014.90	DOWN 12.77

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78; NO. OF TRADES: 1,267

DISCLOSURES

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 14,900 of its own shares at P32 per share.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. has announced the resignation of Hoe Eng Hock as president of the corporation, effective immediately. Toh Ko Lin was elected to replace him.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc. has bought 34.2 million shares of JG Summit Holdings Inc. at P1.32 per share.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. has reported the appointment of Letty Guimba as acting chief compliance officer of the company. Elected to its newly created nomination committee were Teodoro Regala Sr., Francisco Eizmendi Jr. and Rizalino Navarro. While those elected to the compensation committee were Valentin Araneta, Eizmendi and Navarro. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 21, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.028701	1.000000	53.189000
Japan	Yen	0.008199	0.007970	0.423900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.591400	1.547000	82.283400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.131900	0.128220	6.819900
Switzerland	Franc	0.680313	0.661332	35.175600
Canada	Dollar	0.653849	0.635607	33.807300
Singapore	Dollar	0.574372	0.558347	29.697900
Australia	Dollar	0.565593	0.549813	29.244000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.728721	2.652590	141.088600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274298	0.266645	14.182600
Brunei	Dollar	0.574276	0.558254	29.693000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023508	0.022852	1.215500
UAE	Dirham	0.280086	0.272272	14.481900
European Monetary Union	Euro	1.000000	0.972100	51.705000
Argentina	Peso	0.287347	0.279330	14.857300
Brazil	REAL	0.265129	0.257732	13.708500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134590	0.130835	6.959000
India	Rupee	0.021281	0.020687	1.100300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.270747	0.263193	13.999000
Mexico	New Peso	0.103180	0.100301	5.334900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495020	0.481209	25.595000
Norway	Kroner	0.134880	0.131117	6.974000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017465	0.016978	0.903000
South Africa	Rand	0.099574	0.096796	5.148500
Korea	Won	0.000833	0.000810	0.043100
Sweden	Kroner	0.110047	0.106977	5.690000
Syria	Pound	0.023273	0.022624	1.203300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029551	0.028727	1.528000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000728	0.000708	0.037700

Easycall to close paging operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. yesterday announced the shutdown of its remaining paging operations in Metro Manila and Cebu effective Nov. 30 to focus on new business ventures related to information technology and the Internet.

"This will effectively cut down the losses being incurred by the company from its paging operations in view of the continuing deterioration in our pager base," Easycall corporate information officer Leon Dy said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Leon said Easycall had made arrangements with Island Country Telecommunications Inc., operator of Jaspage, for the latter to absorb its remaining subscribers.

The paging business in the Philippines was made obsolete by the boom in the text or short messaging system (SMS) service offered by cellular phone providers over the last few years.

"We strongly believe that the remaining market base for paging can be profitably operated by the remaining paging operators in the country today," Dy said.

"Our company will now focus on expanding in the contract center outsourcing business both for the local and foreign markets as well as in the Internet and data center services. We remain optimistic that we shall be able to grow our revenue base again in these new business areas in the next few years," he explained.

Easycall started phasing out its paging operations during the last few years and focused its resources instead on new businesses. It was planning to invest P1.46 billion in IT-related projects over a five-year period.

Its 2,150-seater call center facility in Las Piñas began operations late last year. Among its clients are Wendy's Hamburger, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Shakey's Pizza, Petron and Max's Fried Chicken.

The Internet network infrastructure services were launched in 2000.

NTC to bid out new-technology frequencies in 3-5 years

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission will bid out frequencies for the third generation (3G) platform in the next three to five years as it gives time to existing wireless players to capitalize on their existing infrastructure.

In an interview yesterday, NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said this timeframe would also allow potential 3G players to gauge the public's response to the new technology platform.

"The (existing) 2G and 2.5G platforms are still okay. In fact, we haven't even maximized all of their possible applications. The No. 1 bottleneck in 3G is applications," he said.

He added that the cellular service providers' gradual shift to 2.5G would allow them to amass sufficient funds to finance possible 3G rollouts in the future as well as maximize the use of their existing networks.

Rio explained that shifting to 3G from the prevailing global system for mobile communications (GSM) platform would entail "starting from scratch" for potential players as their present infrastructure could no longer be used for 3G.

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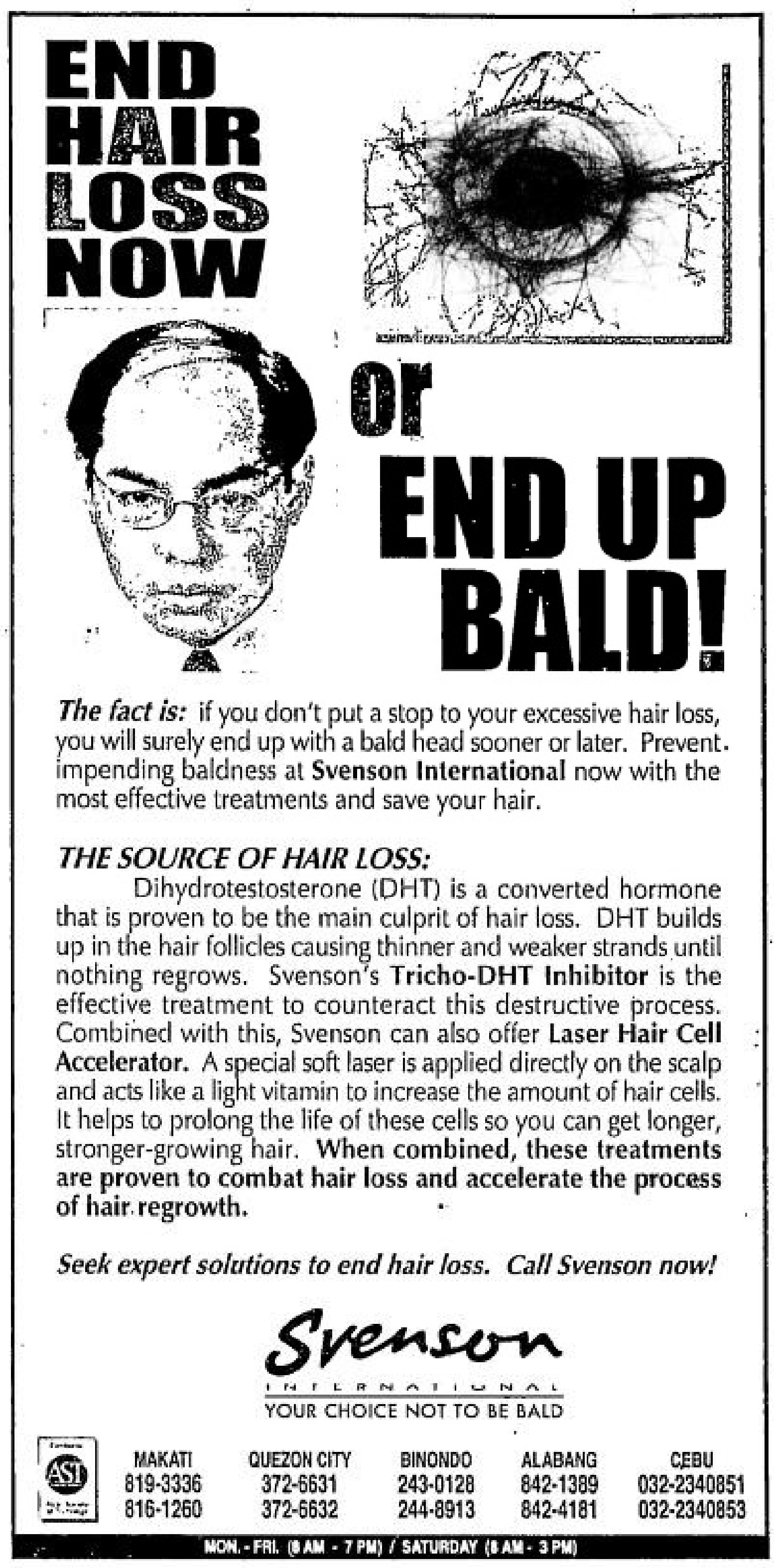
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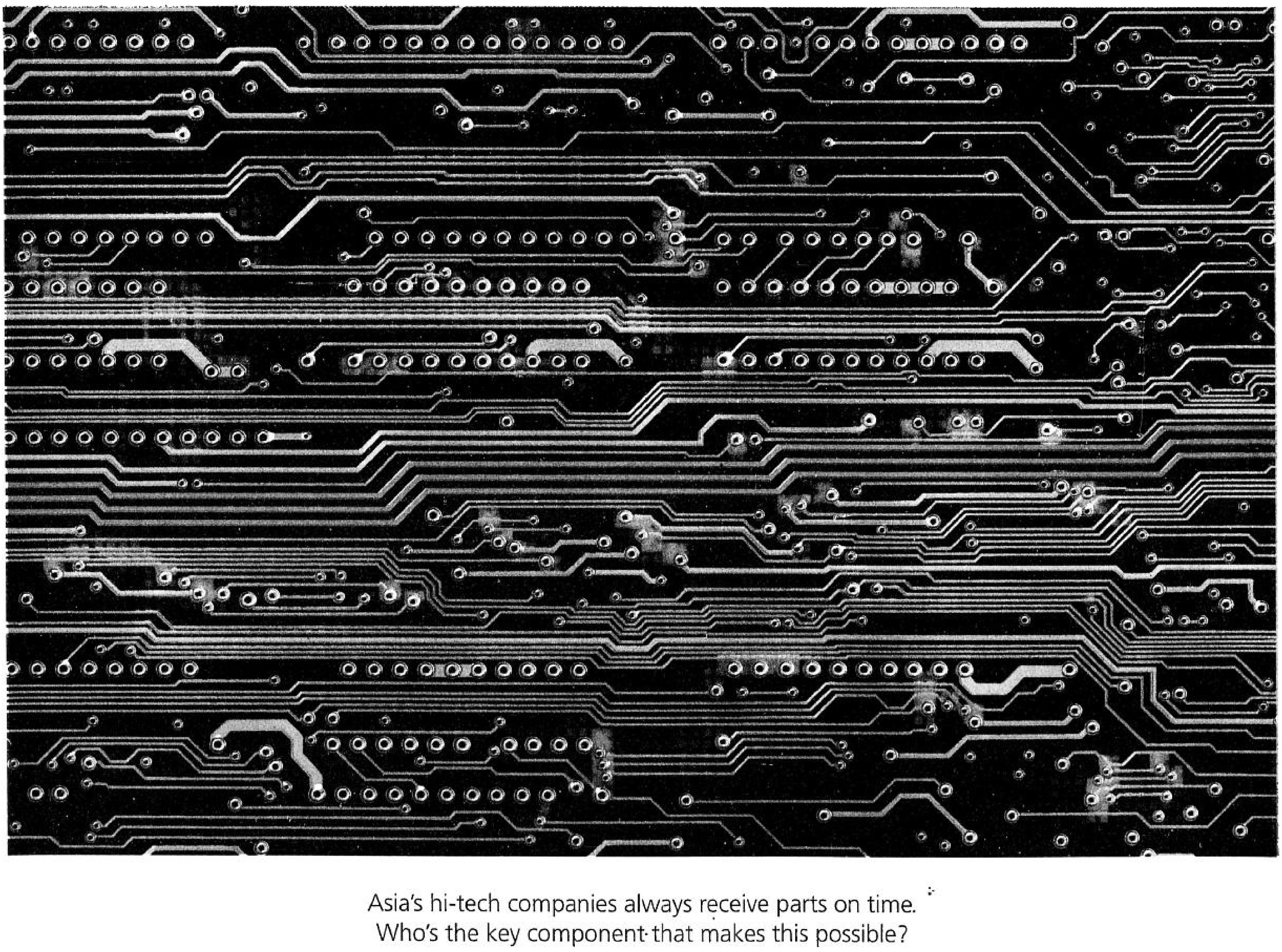
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GAIN for the electronics industry

THE SEMICONDUCTOR and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI) celebrates its founding anniversary today with activities highlighting its achievements for the last 18 years and with the presentation of a "Roadmap to Success for the Electronics Industry of the Philippines."

SEIPI is the leading and largest organization of foreign and local semiconductor and electronics companies in the Philippines with membership totaling 189.

The electronics industry, on the other hand, is acknowledged as the main driver of the Philippine economy as it accounts for 68 percent of the country's total exports. SEIPI member-companies are responsible for over 80 percent of this exports, which unequivocally makes SEIPI a major economic force in the country. The industry has also grown stronger than ever over the last decade. In 2001 alone, total Philippine electronics exports were almost US$22 billion.

SANTIAGO

Ernesto B. Santiago, SEIPI's executive director, says the organization has remained committed to its vision and objectives of enhancing the competitive environment for the electronics business. This, he says, will help drive the Philippines toward global leadership in information and communications technology.

"Through the years we have come up with programs and initiatives focused on four strategic approaches. These are global competitiveness, advocacy, information and networking or GAIN," says Santiago. "All of our efforts are centered on this, and I can say we have made lots of major breakthoughs."

SEIPI believes that global competitiveness is important as it deems the industry's competitive advantages (with the advent of globalization and rapid advancement in technology) lies in the capabilities of its people, particularly its engineers. With this in mind, SEIPI's strategic focus is on the development of the core competencies of its members' manpower complement. In 2002, it has initiated an organization-wide training and education program intended to make industry workers the best in their fields. More than one hundred training modules have been devised for the various Networking Committees (NWCs) which covers the seven main functional areas of member-companies, namely: engineering, purchasing, human resources, environment and safety, finance, traffic (import/export), and information technology.

SEIPI

Advocacy is an important function of SEIPI. It publishes position papers on pertinent issues affecting the industry and regularly meets with heads of concerned government agencies to lobby for reforms. It has established strong links with various offices and bureaus of the different departments of government such as the Department of Trade and Industry through the Board of Investments, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), the Department of Energy, the Department of Finance particularly the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Congress and the Office of the President, among others.

SEIPI is recognized as the primary source of information on the Philippine semiconductor and electronics industry.

One of its main thrusts is to further develop its information base through its program of studies and surveys touching on all aspects of the industry, from product capabilities and capacities to manpower compensation packages and materials requirements. It coordinates regularly with various statistical institutions like the National Statistics Office, the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, BOI and SEC.

In networking, SEIPI serves as the platform where industry leaders converge and exchange ideas. It organizes a host of membership meetings and benchmarking activities for all levels of management with the end goal of sharing the best global practices. It establishes strong linkages with local and foreign industry organizations for the purposes of information exchange and business development. These serve to foster camaraderie and closer relations among the members and provide them opportunities for the establishment of strong business contacts.

And just like any industry which is sensitive to the happenings in the country and the world, a roadmap for overcoming these obstacles was developed. The overall objective of the roadmap is to grow the Philippines electronics industry into a US$100-billion export business by the year 2008.

This roadmap to global competitiveness is composed of key initiatives such as manufacturing cost control, country's image, targeted sector development, allied industry development, MNCs and domestic value chain expansion, semiconductor test center excellence and wafer fab. Its vision is to "Transform the Philippines into a Regional Center of Excellence in selected electronics industry products and processes, and thus become the investment location of choice for domestic and foreign organizations who wish to design, make and sell their products."

Electronics industry week on

THE PHILIPPINE Electronics Industry Week kicks off today with chief executive officers of member-companies of SEIPI coming together in a symposium dubbed "CEO Forum."

The forum, which is just one of the activities planned for the week, will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

An NWC Symposia, which will tackle issues affecting the industry such as on environment and safety, finance, manufacturing/engineering, information technology, human resources, purchasing, and exports/imports of SEIPI executives, managers and supervisors will also be held at Shangri-La Makati on Oct. 23.

There will also be a Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Exhibition (PSEE) from Oct. 22-24 with 48 exhibitors and 54 booths participating.

The week will also be highlighted by a massive advocacy media campaign both in print and broadcast media focusing on "The Great Filipino Electronics Worker."

To cap the weeklong event will be SEIPI joining President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her visit to Silicon Valley on Oct. 28 to meet leading electronics companies in the United States.

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Credit card firms . . .

From page B1

achieving the next wave of profitability.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas believes too much competition has been the reason why credit card companies have been getting so much flak from the public.

Competition in the credit card business has reached a level where people can get pre-approved credit cards through the mail, from the mall and even from gasoline stations.

Complaints to the central bank are often about excessive interest rates charged by credit card companies.

On average, a credit card user incurs interest payments of 3.5 percent a month or 42 percent a year, too steep considering the rate on the one-year treasury bill stood at only 7.6 percent two weeks ago.

Some have complained that credit card companies have been reneging on their promise to waive their annual fee on the first year of their membership.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura blames aggressive marketing, driven by cutthroat competition, for all the problems now plaguing the credit card industry.

What has alarmed the central bank is the increasing number of past due accounts of credit card companies.

Disturbing figures

As of end-June this year, the receivables of the credit card industry have grown by 7.8 percent to P50.8 billion from end-March and by 33.5 percent from June 30 last year.

Of this amount, some P48.7 billion represented exposures of commercial banks and their credit card subsidiaries, while the rest were taken up by thrift banks.

While, on average, the past due accounts of commercial banks stood at only 22.06 percent of their total receivables and 26.33 percent for thrifts, a more detailed profile of the industry has not been as comforting.

As it is, the average past due levels as of the second quarter were already higher compared to 18.62 percent in soured accounts a year earlier of the credit card operations and subsidiaries of the giant lenders.

At least for thrift banks, last year's bad loans ratio was higher at 27.99 percent, which even slid to 24.69 percent as of end-March 2002.

Ten local universal banks and six subsidiaries offering credit cards posted a past due ratio of 25.46 percent of total receivables as of the second quarter from only 14.18 percent a year earlier and from 24.16 percent the previous quarter.

These are Allied Banking Corp.; Bank of the Philippine Islands and subsidiary BPI Card Corp.; Equitable PCI Bank and subsidiary Equitable Cardnetwork Inc.; Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and subsidiary Unibancard Corp.; Philippine National Bank; Prudential Bank; Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and subsidiary Bankard Inc.; Security Bank and subsidiary Security International Card Corp.; Union Bank of the Philippines; and United Coconut Planters Bank and subsidiary UCPB Leasing and Finance Corp.

Bank of Commerce, the only regular commercial bank in the list, registered a startling past due ratio of 78.13 percent in the second quarter from 65.23 percent a year earlier.

On the other hand, Land Bank of the Philippines, the only government bank engaged in the plastic cash business, was able to trim its bad credit card loans to 14.3 percent of total receivables from 39.35 percent last year and 16.58 percent the previous quarter.

Foreign giants

Equally alarming was the combined soured account of foreign lenders HSBC Corp. and Standard Chartered Bank, which reached 28.61 percent as of end-June from 24.83 percent a year earlier, but slightly down from 30 percent in end-March.

Citibank NA, the biggest player in the market, recorded the lowest past due ratio of 12.74 percent as of the second quarter from 14.54 percent a year earlier and 13.74 percent in the first quarter.

Consistent with its status as the bank carrying the second-largest bad loans burden, United Overseas Bank's credit card business is as troubled, with a past due account of 86.98 percent from 83.34 percent in June 2001 and 85.91 percent in March 2002.

Smaller banks engaged in the plastic cash business appeared to have exercised better prudence. As of end-June, 11 thrift banks registered a past due ratio of 26.33 percent from 27.99 percent last year and from 24.69 percent as of end-March.

Indiscriminate

Buenaventura and other central bank officials blame the indiscriminate issuance of credit cards as the root of the problem with soured accounts.

As banks draw more bad eggs into the basket, what is left of the good ones are asked to cover for the spoils. Instead of being rewarded, the clients who settle their dues on time, in effect, subsidize the delinquent ones, according to Buenaventura.

However, the Credit Card Association of the Philippines, according to Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, is contesting the central bank's computation of the past due ratio.

The group claims that most credit companies worldwide consider an account only as past due when it has not been paid on the 31st day after the due date.

The central bank considers a credit card loan to be past due when it is unpaid a day after due date.

Reyes said the central bank would find out in a month or two whether the industry's claims were valid and whether revising the computation was appropriate.

What may debunk the claims of the industry are recent global practices where credit card firms in other countries have started charging their clients a rising level of late fees.

Where before, some credit card players in other countries give their customers a grace period of 15 to 30 days after due date to settle the account, now they are charging penalties to those unable to settle their loans on or before due date, according to one banker.

It appears that the industry's lobbying seeks only to artificially correct the adverse impression on their past due accounts and its growing correlation to the exorbitant rates they charge for those who dare to swipe their cards. *(To be continued)*

DST exemption to cost gov't ₱3B, Finance says

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has estimated that exempting five debt and stock market transactions from the documentary stamp tax will cost the government at least P3 billion.

A finance official, who sought anonymity, said yesterday that lifting the documentary stamp tax on equities transactions and on the premium on life insurance would deprive the government of about P1 billion in potential revenues each.

The government will lose some P325 million if it also exempts insurance policies and retirement, pension and provident funds from the documentary stamp tax, the official added, and another P400 million from taxes on time and special savings deposits.

The exemption from the documentary stamp tax of inter-bank call loan transactions will further reduce the government's tax collection by about P44 million, the finance official said.

The government has asked Congress to approve the lifting of the documentary stamp tax on secondary market transactions, as well as on the issuance of debt instruments.

This measure is expected to improve liquidity on debt papers and help develop a long-term market for these instruments.

The government imposes a documentary stamp tax of P1.50 for every P200 worth of stocks being transferred.

Clarissa S. Batino

Fitch affirms . . .

From page B1

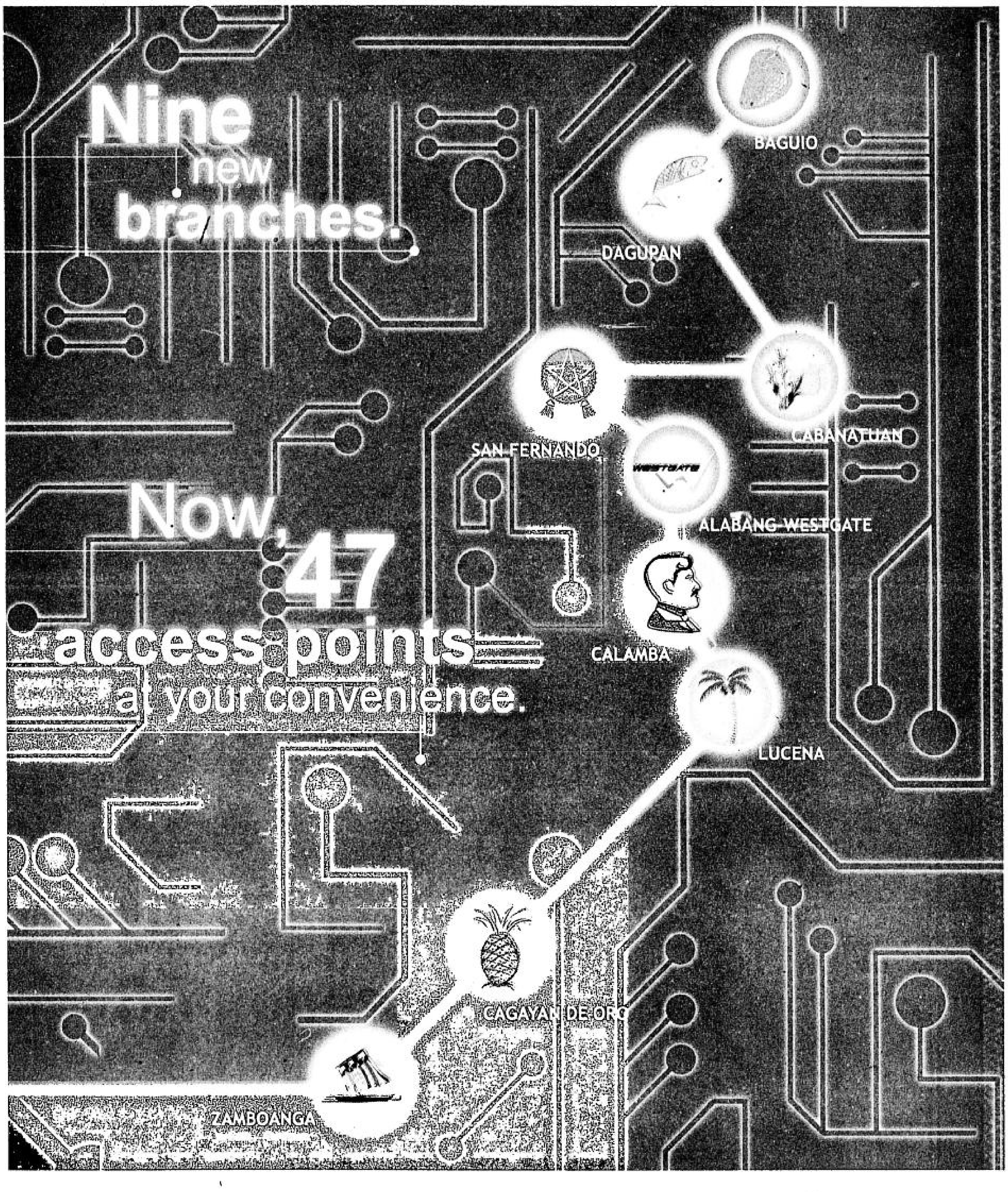
pected to pursue deleveraging, it said.

After a sustained period of high capital investment, PLDT has turned free cash flow positive—largely due to a reduction in capex and cash operating costs.

Fitch said it anticipated the positive free cash flow trend continuing over the near to medium term. "Although this enhances PLDT's prospects for deleveraging, the company is still vulnerable to circumstances that could constrain the pace of deleveraging and credit metric improvement. Such circumstances include the possibility of increased competition, economic instability and ownership changes."

PLDT's rating is supported by its leadership positions across all major facets of the Philippine telecom sector and positive cash flow generated from traditional fixed line telephony services, Fitch said. Operating margins have been consistent in recent times and, with continuing sound business fundamentals and further improvement to working capital management, cash flow has the potential to further increase.

As of June 2002, PLDT's leverage (measured by net debt to Ebitda) was around 5.3x with consolidated leverage of 4x, excluding Piltel's financial obligations. Ebitda to net interest cover was 2.4x and 3.3x, respectively.



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Economic chief places 2002 inflation at 3.5%

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday he expected the inflation rate to average 3.5 percent this year despite pressures on oil prices due to fears of a possible war in the Middle East.

The government's average inflation rate target for 2002 is 4.5 to 5.5 percent, but officials have indicated the actual figure may be lower than forecast.

"It is still an average of 3.5 percent for the year. We have not changed (estimates) because our worst-case scenario has not yet materialized—crude oil price at $28 per barrel (Dubai crude)," Canlas told reporters when asked about his projection for inflation this year.

Local petroleum prices have been on the rise due to volatile world crude prices owing to the tension between Iraq and the United States. The United States has accused Iraq of concealing weapons of mass destruction.

Reuters

PNB approves sale of ₱1.9B in assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank has approved the sale of around P1.9 billion worth of real and other property owned or acquired, or Ropoas.

Industry observers consider the sale as one of the positive results of the appointment of seven veteran bankers to the ranks of PNB's management team.

The new executives come from German lender Deutsche Bank AG, US investment firm Citibank NA and some leading local banks.

In a statement, PNB said it expected its gross profit from the sale of P1.9 billion worth of Ropoas as of the third quarter of the year to reach over P600 million.

The bank said the higher-than-expected assets sale was due to the appointment of Citibank's Federico Cadiz Jr. as its executive vice president for asset management and asset sales.

"Mr. Cadiz is pursuing a two-pronged approach in managing the bank's over P25-billion Ropoa portfolio: treat assets with income-generating potential as business concerns; and, maximize yields out of these assets through securitization, joint ventures or development," PNB said.

Apart from Cadiz, the other new members of PNB's management team are executive vice president for global operations Anthony Chua, executive vice president and chief credit officer Omar Byron Mier, chief financial officer Carmen Huang, first senior vice presidents Michael de Jesus for corporate banking and Ismael Sandig for domestic banking, and corporate secretary Renato Fernandez.

PNB said Chua initiated quality standards to improve efficiencies in its cash management, clearing and loans administration divisions.

"This is expected to cascade to the front lines, where the bank's customers will be able to experience better service from their branches," it said.

Mier has been initiating measures to promote a globally risk-rated loan portfolio by ensuring effective and responsive credit policies, as the bank prepares for loan growth in 2004, it added.

De Jesus' group, meanwhile, is expected to seize opportunities for cross selling of PNB's financial products across industries.

The bank's net loss in the first nine months of the year stood at P1.5 billion, down 72 percent from a loss of P5.3 billion a year earlier and way below the bank's projected net loss range of P2.9 billion to P3.1 billion for its year-end operations.

Significant improvements were also posted in the following areas: cost reduction by P593 million in other expenses; non-performing loans, down P2.3 billion to P48.9 billion; negative net interest margin reduction to P19 million; a P4.8-billion growth in the volume of low-cost current and savings account deposits; and a 15-percent increase in service charges, fees and commissions from P917 million last year to P1.1 billion this year.

Banks seen selling mortgage insurance through branches

By Clarissa S. Batino

IN an effort to help the slumping housing sector, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has said it may allow banks to use their branches to sell mortgage insurance.

"We are looking at the possibility of including mortgage redemption insurance, provided the Insurance Commission will allow it," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The central bank initially limited cross-selling to life insurance and to select non-life insurance products, including comprehensive auto insurance and fire insurance.

Mortgage redemption is an insurance usually required by banks to those availing of housing loans.

In the event that the borrower dies, the loan gets paid by the mortgage insurer.

The insurance also relieves the borrowers family from being pressed to settle their relative's debts.

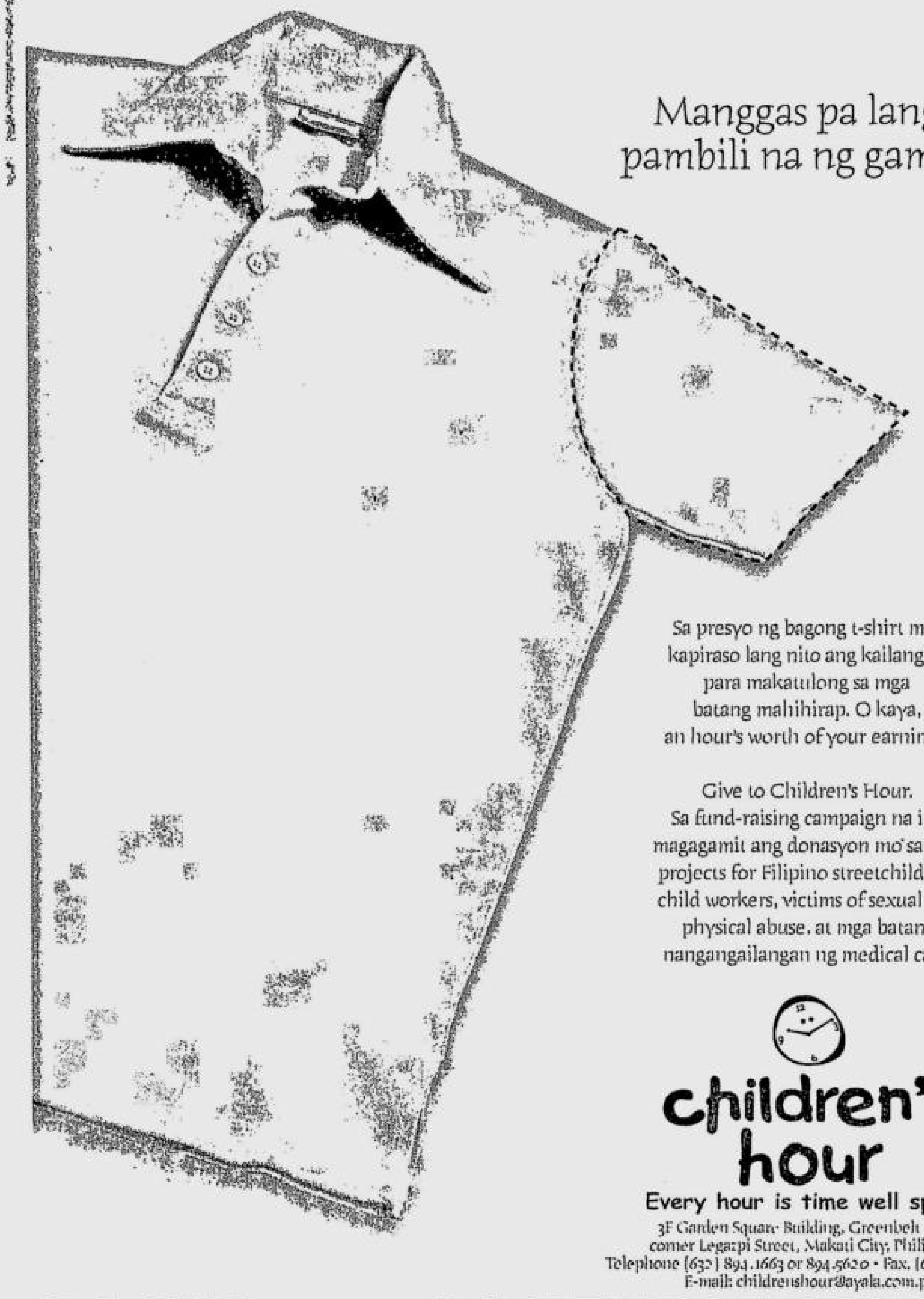
Buenaventura said allowing the sale of mortgage insurance should encourage banks to increase their exposures to the housing sector and help spur increased activity into the housing sector, which was seen crucial in achieving faster growth.

The plan, if approved by the Monetary Board, will be in line with recent central bank policies allowing housing loans as part of the instruments that banks can rediscount.

The central bank has also increased the loan valuation of new and existing residential and subdivision development credit to 80 from 70 percent.

Including the mortgage insurance in the roster of products that banks can sell in the newly liberalized system will also make it easier for housing borrowers to secure the particular insurance.

Currently, borrowers have a difficult time securing a mortgage insurance as some banks require that these products be obtained from an accredited insurance firm.



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TABANG MINDANAW
INQUIRER

When stocks fall, can an art boom be far behind?

LONDON—An auctioneer at Sotheby's brings down the hammer on "The Massacre of the Innocents," a long-lost painting by Flemish Old Master Peter Paul Rubens.

The sale price is $76.7 million—eight times more than expected—making the "Massacre" the third-most expensive painting in the world.

Across the city, dazed stock market traders emerge from their offices at the end of another punishing day.

They have just watched London's blue-chip FTSE 100 index shed another 120 points to slide toward its lowest level in five years.

The date was July 10 this year, and the contrasting fortunes of the stock and art markets can seldom have been more marked.

The FTSE has fallen even further since then, while the art market remains robust, lending support to the theory that when wealthy investors take fright from equities, they often plough their cash into pricey paintings.

"The most spectacular example of this was the period immediately after 'Black Monday' in 1987, a period which saw the greatest art boom of the 20th century," said Godfrey Barker, a London-based art writer.

The value of stocks in London plunged 11 percent on Black Monday, Oct. 19, 1987, and another 12 percent the following day—the biggest falls ever seen on the FTSE.

Within weeks, one of the most lavish spending sprees on fine art was under way, with investors, led by the Japanese and a handful of Wall Street speculators, buying up virtually any picture they could lay their hands on.

Things reached a crescendo in May 1990 when, within three days, Vincent Van Gogh's "Portrait of Doctor Gachet" sold for $82.5 million and Pierre-Auguste Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette" went for $78.1 million.

Twelve years on, the two remain the world's most expensive paintings in dollar terms.

A similar if shorter-lived art boom can be traced following the dotcom debacle of late 1999 and early 2000.

For months, investors ploughed billions of dollars into companies on the US Nasdaq index, lured by promises of ever increasing profits fueled by a technological revolution.

When the bubble burst in early 2000, the fine art market was one of the main beneficiaries.

According to figures compiled by London-based company Art Market Research Index, the price of contemporary art works rose nearly 70 percent in the first nine months of 2000, while the Nasdaq slumped.

French Impressionist paintings gained 52 percent over the same period while Old Masters added 47 percent.

"The reason the art market shot up like a rocket between January and September 2000 was that people were subtracting their money from dotcom investment and parking it elsewhere," Barker said.

And they are still doing just that.

The world's major stock markets, widely expected to recover their poise in 2002, have instead lost nearly a third of their value since the start of the year.

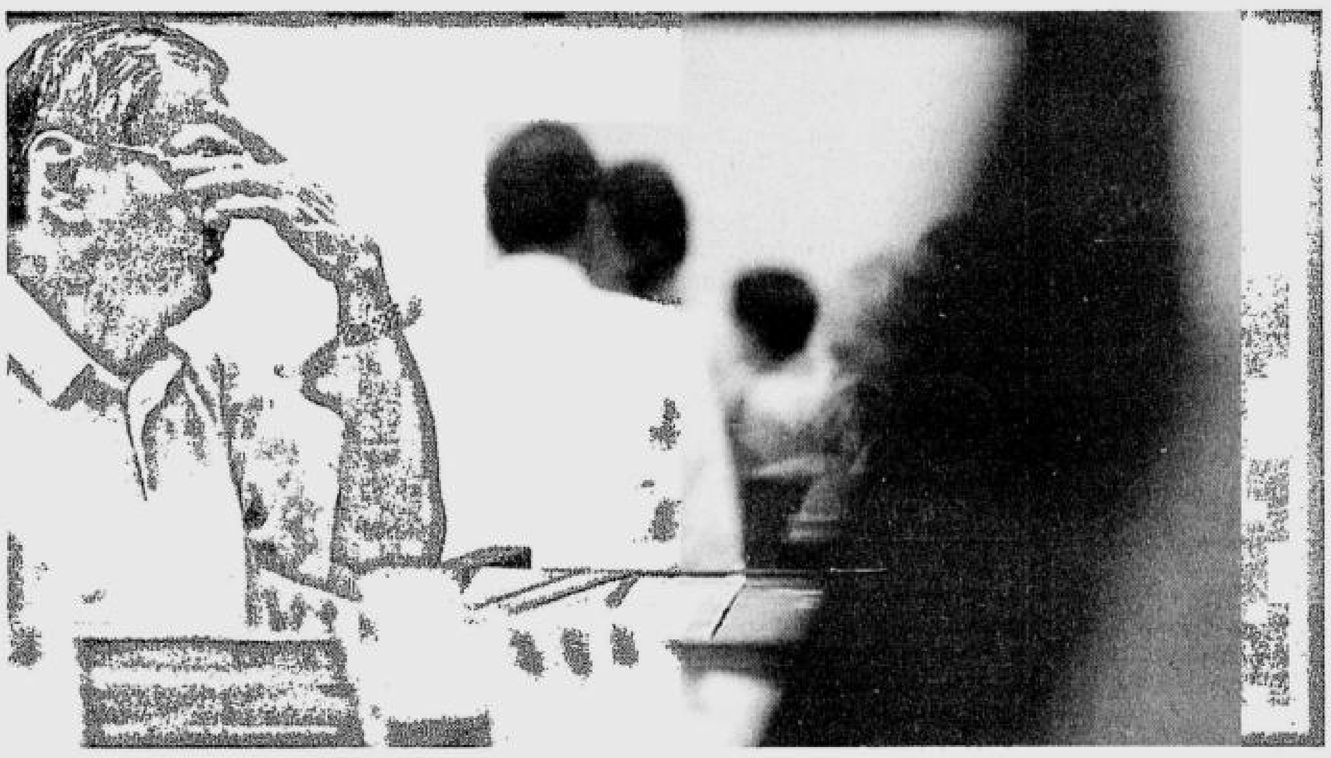
In contrast, the fine art market is buoyant.

"For the top end of the market things are fine," said Richard Green, Britain's leading art dealer by sales. "People are still collecting. We're buying, we're selling and I expect that to continue."

Reuters

'PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH'

RP asks US, Australia to help poor countries



A TRADER adjusts his eyeglasses during a lull in trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Philippine share prices closed 1.2 percent lower amid security concerns and a weak peso after fatal bomb attacks in Manila and in the South. The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 12.77 points to close at 1,014.90. AFP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is asking its well-off peers in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec)— specifically the United States and Australia—to "practice what they preach" and help developing countries in the group in their campaign to get wider access for their products to developed countries.

In a statement, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said: "The forthcoming Apec should be an avenue to remind developed nations to practice what they preach about opening markets and trade liberalization."

Roxas will attend the 10th Apec economic leaders meeting in Mexico on Oct. 26 and 27.

Roxas noted that developing countries like most of the Asean members had to contend with trade barriers set up by richer or more developed nations.

The Philippines, in particular, had complained against the US and Australia for their alleged unfair treatment of the country's canned tuna and fruits, respectively.

Roxas said that while Apec was not a forum for negotiations, it should back the measures and policies being pushed by developing countries in multilateral trading systems such as the World Trade Organization.

He said the Philippines was counting on Apec to present a "strong voice of commitment" to greater market access for products of relevance to developing countries; phaseout of trade distorting subsidies; and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

Aside from trade access, Roxas said the upcoming Apec meeting would discuss concrete measures aimed at regulating the movement of goods, standards, business mobility and E-commerce.

The actions of member countries on counter-terrorism and transparency of their respective financial sector would also be discussed.

Aside from the United States, Australia, and the Philippines, members of Apec are Brunei, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Singapore, Chinese-Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam. Apec's main goal is to promote open trade and practical economic cooperation.

DTI eyes incentives to spur auto exports

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will tuck in an export subsidy package for the automotive industry in the proposed amendments to the Omnibus Investments Act as part of measures to spur the export of locally assembled vehicles.

A DTI source said the export incentives would be included along with other reforms to the government's fiscal perks program aimed at making the country's incentives program at par with other countries.

These include the lengthening of the income tax holiday to 12 years, restoration of duty- and tax-free importation, and adoption of net operating loss carry-over (Nolco) and accelerated depreciation.

The amendments to the Omnibus Investments bill are expected to be among the government's priority bills in next year's Congress.

Although export subsidies are normally discouraged under free trade rules, countries with a per capita income of below $1,000 are exempted.

The DTI source said the Philippines, whose per capita income fell below the $1,000 threshold last year due to the depreciation of the peso and economic slowdown, has opted to take advantage of this exemption by giving subsidies to its vehicle industry.

The export subsidy would come in the form of tax credits to be granted to vehicle assemblers that would export completely built up units to Asean and other countries. This means that the more an assembler exports, the bigger the cuts it would enjoy on its domestic sales.

Most assemblers are still in the knocked-down assembly stage with most of their production intended for the domestic market while exports were limited to automotive components.

With the DTI's thrust to reward assemblers that would tap the export market, several car makers have signified their plans to ship out CBUs—Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. (which started its export program early this year), Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Isuzu Philippines Corp., and Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

The DTI is encouraging CBU exports in order to make the local automotive industry relevant with the onset of a single market in the region. The Philippines has the smallest vehicle market among the four Asean countries that are developing an automotive industry.

Debt yields edge up amid security worries

TREASURY yields were quoted slightly higher on Monday but most banks maintained positions amid increased security concerns following a series of bomb attacks last week in the capital and in southern Zamboanga City.

Dealers said rates of government securities did not reflect the nervousness seen in the currency market after the attacks.

This was partly due to market perception that the Philippine central bank was unlikely to jack up its key policy rates to protect the peso.

Based on the few banks which posted their bid and offer rates, quotes edged five to 10 basis points higher in the secondary market. But there were hardly any transactions.

"Practically no one's moving, everyone's just square. It's obvious why, there's a new security threat in the country," said a dealer from a local bank.

A bomb exploded at an open-air Christian shrine in Zamboanga on Sunday, the third bomb attack in the country in the past four days and the second in Zamboanga. A total of 10 people have already died and scores were wounded from the series of bomb attacks. *Reuters*

Lacson bill on prepaid cards questioned

By Abigail L. Ho

A PROVISION in opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's proposed bill on prepaid cellular phone cards may put the National Telecommunications Commission in a bind with consumers and telecommunications firms.

Lacson has filed a bill aimed at ensuring more responsible use of cellular phones, especially those using prepaid SIM (subscriber identification module) cards, as these are sometimes used as tools for crimes like kidnapping and robbery.

Under the proposed bill, cellular service providers should require those that purchase prepaid SIM cards from their business centers or dealers to show valid identification cards with a photograph.

This procedure would supposedly make it easier to track down the owner of the mobile phone number if the number is used in committing any crime.

But consumer advocacy group TXTPOwer spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz said this new bill, if passed, could result in higher fees and cellular service rates for the consumers because of new data that telecommunications firms would have to maintain and new systems that would have to be put in place.

"Will the expense of the registration forms and the growing database be passed on to consumers?" Cruz said.

Will this result in new fees and new regulations that will hamper the public from availing themselves of cellular phone service at a time when most of the country remain without any other affordable means of communication?" he added in a statement yesterday.

He said that the proposed prepaid SIM card registration could lead to invasion of privacy and would make prepaid subscribers more prone to surveillance and spying operations even if they were not doing anything illegal.

The NTC issued a memorandum circular two years ago containing the same provision but this was never implemented because of the opposition of the country's cellular service providers.

Aside from the prepaid SIM card registration that consumer groups opposed, Memorandum Circular No. 13-6-2000 also contained the controversial six-second-pulse billing scheme that telecommunications firms opposed.

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Under pressure, Japan fine-tunes reforms

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, left, is greeted by Deryck C. Maughan, chair and CEO of Citigroup International, right, after delivering a speech at the annual meeting of the Japan-US Business Conference in Tokyo Monday. Clapping his hands at center is Hiroshi Okuda, chair of Japan Business Federation. Business leaders of both countries discussed about economic issues. AP

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi came under pressure on Monday to balance tough reforms with policies to limit the economic shock in a policy package due this week aimed at fixing banks and halting years of deflation.

Japan's financial system, beset by at least $415 billion in non-performing bank loans and a fragile stock market, was in severe shape, Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said in a speech, urging comprehensive action to resolve the problem.

Politicians and economists urged the government to match promises of harsh-sounding reforms with measures to stimulate the economy, protect workers and prevent another recession.

But doubt was also growing over whether chief bank regulator Heizo Takenaka would take the tough stance feared only two weeks ago in financial markets when investors drove Tokyo's Nikkei share average to 19-year lows.

An opposition lawmaker told parliament that plunge had highlighted the need for a delicate approach.

"Tougher policies on bad loans and anti-deflationary steps must come as a package," Democratic Party Secretary General Kansei Nakano said at a Lower House plenary session.

"But the government's anti-deflation steps are unclear and the prime minister should realize that that is the backdrop of the 'Takenaka shock' in the market," he added.

A task force led by Takenaka is expected to publish an interim report on plans to tackle banking problems on Tuesday, and the government is set to launch a more comprehensive policy package later in the week, incorporating ideas in that report.

Many analysts worry that the bank steps might be toned down in the face of political opposition while others worry that even if tough action is taken, the government will struggle to contain the rise in bankruptcies and unemployment that could follow.

"If we don't get a truly coherent policy package—if we only have the bad-loan steps, even if they are not as radical as a lot of people had feared—it could just feed worries about deflation rather than fight deflation," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital (Japan).

Broker Salomon Smith Barney fired a warning shot, cutting Japanese equities in its global portfolio to "underweight" from "overweight" and citing a lack of coherent government policy as one reason.

A key issue in the Takenaka report will be how the government may inject public funds into banks, whose capital is likely to be eroded by a more aggressive write-off of bad loans.

The Financial Services Agency estimates non-performing loans at around 52 trillion yen ($415 billion)—a stubborn hangover from Japan's bubble economy of the late 1980s that has been worsened by years of stagnant growth and cosy ties between banks and hopeless borrowers.

Hidenao Nakagawa, a senior official with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said in a television talk show on Sunday that the report was likely to come out on Tuesday and the government's policy package on Friday.

Reuters

Fed may lower interest rates further

NEW YORK—Demand for credit is slowing even while benchmark US interest rates are at historic lows, suggesting the Federal Reserve may have to cut rates even more to keep the lifeblood of liquidity flowing.

Despite one of the most aggressive Fed monetary easing campaigns on record, a small camp of economists believe some evidence shows that borrowing is waning as both households and corporations, stung by the stock market crash and trying to shake off the hangover of heavy debt, clean up their accounts.

The implications are big, and would mean the Fed's low 1.75 percent benchmark rate may not be keeping up with conditions in the economy.

Indeed a majority of Wall Street economists do not expect the Fed to cut rates this year.

"If people decide they want to save more than they want to borrow, the price of credit, an interest rate, goes down," said Paul Kasriel, chief US economist at Northern Trust.

"The Fed is a price fixer. If the equilibrium rate (market rate) is falling below the rate that the Fed sets, that's going to result in a contractionary monetary policy," he said. *Reuters*

HK unemployment seen stable at 7.6 %

HONG KONG—Hong Kong is expected to announce on Monday that its unemployment rate was stable at around 7.6 percent in the July-September period but there is still a risk it could rise again if the US economy deteriorates, economists said.

A Reuters poll of 10 economists forecast an average unemployment rate of 7.6 percent for July-September, seasonally adjusted and unchanged from June-August when the number of people out of work fell for the first time in 20 months.

Job creation in the trade sector, as Hong Kong's exports have rebounded in recent months, and in tourism, is helping offset lay-offs in domestic-oriented industries, which are still suffering from weak domestic demand.

However, the July-September period marked the peak season for school leavers and college graduates joining the labor market, leading a couple of economists to forecast the jobless rate could have risen to 7.7 percent.

Reuters

US retail sales data mixed, analysts gloomy

NEW YORK—Flagging confidence in the economy and diminished job prospects are keeping many US consumers out of shopping malls as two retail reports showed mixed results for early October.

Retail industry analysts said a sustained sales spurt was not imminent even as retailers prepare for the crucial holiday season.

Chain store sales slipped 0.9 percent in the week ended Oct. 12 compared with a 0.8-percent gain in the preceding week, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and UBS Warburg reported.

In contrast, Instinet Research's weekly Redbook gauge of retail sales rose a full percentage point during the first retail week of October compared with the same period last month.

"Barring a sudden reversal of the job situation in the United States, we are looking at what is likely to turn out to be an anemic holiday shopping season," said Kurt Barnard, president of Barnard's Retail Consulting Group.

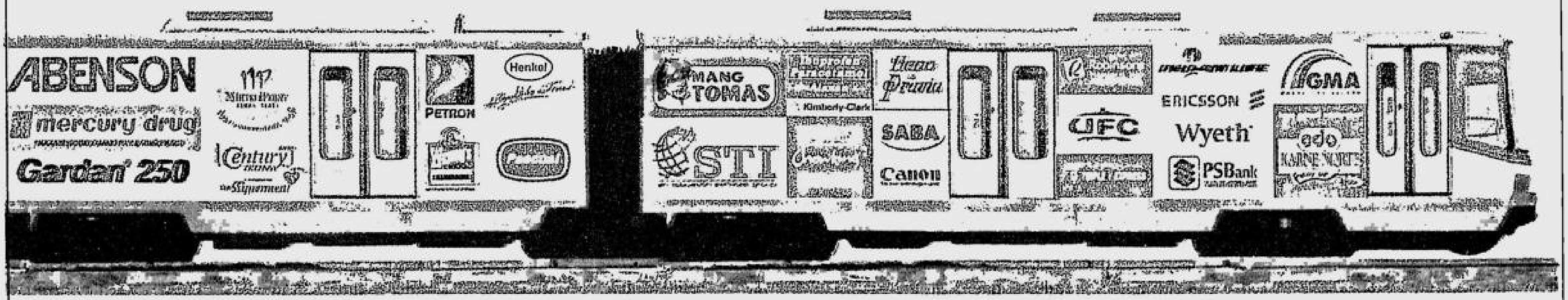
Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity, so analysts keep a careful eye on consumer indicators for signals of the country's financial health.

"Consumer confidence is very weak," Barnard said. "Moreover, everybody now knows somebody who has lost a job or has lost a job himself or herself: that's not exactly the psychological climate conducive to buying binges and spending sprees."

For months now, consumers have showed a hearty appetite for new cars and homes, taking advantage of historically low interest rates in both sectors. But as consumers crowded showrooms and kept real estate brokers busy, they have shied away from chain stores, said analysts.

Reuters

ALL ABOARD!



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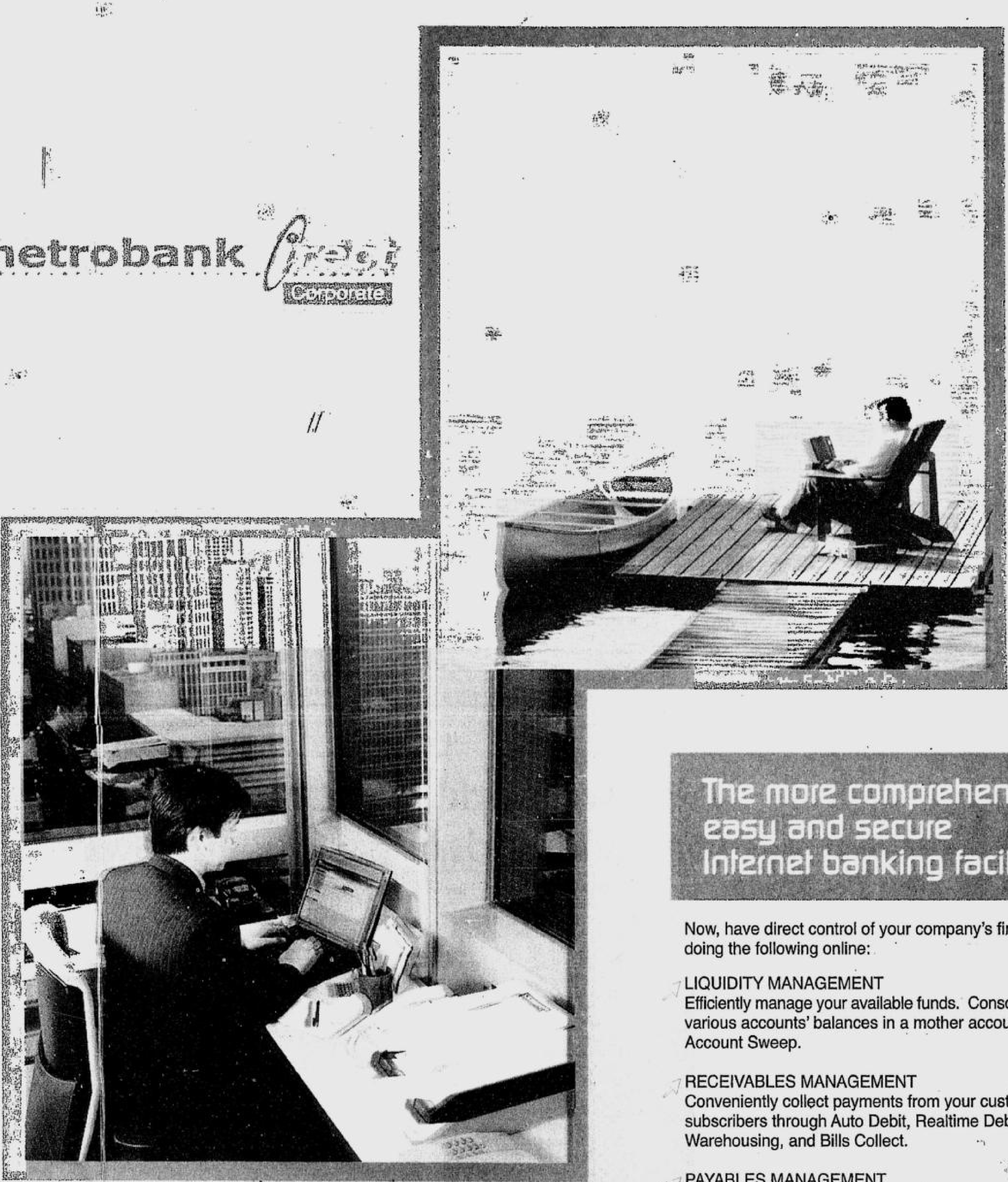

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Developers welcome budget package for Mindanao

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DEVELOPERS nationwide welcomed Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda's disclosure regarding the P84.9-billion funding slated for Mindanao next year for the island's much-needed development programs and projects.

The new funding is contained in next year's P804-billion budget, according to Legarda.

Legarda, in her statement, pointed out that the Mindanao budget is essentially a bail-out package meant to revitalize the island's economy, the armed conflict and worsening peace and order in certain areas there notwithstanding.

Although Mindanao unemployment rate dips, there are still 627,000 Mindanao residents who are jobless as of January, according to a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office in all of Mindanao's six regions.

The island registered an unemployment rate of 8 percent as of January, down from the previous year's 8.7 percent.

Big inspiration

"This funding is certainly a big inspiration for real estate developers in the island and for those investors wishing to come in since a better economic situation in Mindanao would naturally hasten housing development projects there," said Subdivision and Housing Developers Association president Jesus Atencio.

Among the projects lined up for implementation, Legarda revealed, are:

- Construction of airports in the cities of Pagadian, Butuan and Cotabato;
- Construction of circumferential roads in Basilan, Cotabato City and Lake Lanao;
- Expansion and improvement of vital sea ports, such as those cities of Davao, Zamboanga, General Santos, Dapitan and Polloc;
- Electrification of 82 percent of all barangays in Mindanao (up from 69 percent this year);
- Construction and rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems, such as the Saugod River irrigation project in Davao del Norte, the Malitubog-Libungan Transbasin in North Cotabato and the Magonoy No. 3 dam in Sultan Kudarat.

Legarda said the Department of Public Works and Highways has committed 31 percent of its infrastructure projects next year for Mindanao, up from 27 percent this year.

Solving housing backlog

Early this month, Atencio was in Mindanao, joined by 60 developers based in the island, during the conference on housing where Mindanao-wide developers met with key shelter agencies—the House committee on housing; Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board; and Home Development Mutual Fund.

During the conference, the parties forged several landmark housing agreements to stimulate housing development in the island.

The country right now is suffering from a housing backlog of at least 500,000 and these developments in Mindanao, Atencio added, is expected to improve the national situation on housing.

The P84.9-billion funding for Mindanao is part of the P804 billion budget approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 13.

New Cavite village gets warm market reception

THE NEWEST project of Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. south of Metro Manila is enjoying warm market reception, indicating that more and more middle-income buyers are putting a high premium on affordability and accessibility.

Barely a month after the launch of Sta. Catalina Village, all the 270 house-and-lot units initially offered in phase 1 have been sold or reserved. Until now, the LPHI is still receiving numerous inquiries.

Overwhelming interest

LPHI president Manuel Colayco Jr. attributes the "overwhelming" market interest in Sta. Catalina Village to its location and its affordability—a trademark of the Ayala Land mass-housing subsidiary.

"The initial success of our project at the southern doorstep of Manila shows the market's preference for affordable housing that's easily accessible to the metropolis," he noted.

This 41-hectare development on the Molino-Paliparan Road in Cavite will only be 15 minutes away from the Alabang Town Center once the Daang Hari Road is completed. At present, it is about an hour from the Makati central business district and 10 minutes from the DLSU-Emilio Aguinaldo College on Aguinaldo Highway.

Many of the developments in the area are either residential or light businesses. The terrain is gently rolling and the climate is generally cool, making the village an ideal residence.

Affordably priced

More important, the units—with floor area of 33 to 81 square meters and lot area sizes of mainly 125 and 265 sq. m—are affordably priced anywhere between P935,000 and P2.4 million, inclusive of VAT. The five house models that buyers can choose from are built using the world-class TEX building system, which ensures that each structure is spacious and strong enough to last a lifetime.

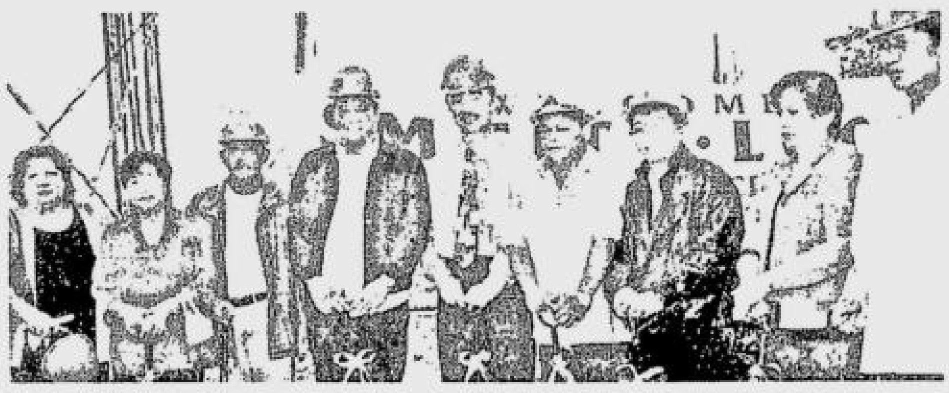
Aside from discount on selling prices and down payments, buyers can likewise avail of a wide array of the LPHI in-house financing; Pag-Ibig and bank financing schemes. A house and lot at Sta. Catalina Village can be owned for as low as P9,740 monthly.

Amenities

Like a typical LPHI community, the subdivision will have amenities that include a clubhouse, multipurpose hall, gazebo, landscaped parks, jogging paths, play areas for children, a basketball court and a swimming pool.

The village will also have a full TEX perimeter fence, security services, a 24-hour, village-operated overhead water tank as well as electric, telephone and cable facilities.

BEST CEMENT BRAND
Union Portland Cement was recently awarded the Best Cement Brand during the 2002 National Consumers Excellence Awards held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Shown are Prof. Urbano S. Reyes Jr., Nancy Chiongbian, Mylene Corpus of Brand Asia Ltd. (the advertising agency of Union Cement Corp.), Union Cement product officer Raymond Tadina and Celia Umali.



LUCENA City Mayor Ramon Talaga and SM's Hans Sy, 4th and 5th from left, led the groundbreaking ceremony for SM City Lucena. Also shown, from left, are city councilors Buena Lequin, Oway Garcia and Vic Paulo, barangay chair Boy Jaca, Mayor Dominador Villena of Padre Burgos, Quezon, city administrator Juliet Villanueva and SM's Antolin Paule.

SM City Lucena holds groundbreaking rites

TOP Lucena City officials led by Mayor Ramon Talaga recently took part in the groundbreaking of SM City Lucena.

Located at Dalahican corner Pagbilao National Road in Lucena City, this SM Prime Holdings supermall is expected to be operational by 2003.

The three-level 72,056-square-meter mall will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the Southern Tagalog region. It will also be a catalyst for investment and employment opportunities in the area.

When completed, its features will include an SM Department Store, a supermarket, a food court, four cinemas, and junior anchor stores as well as shops and restaurants.

SM City Lucena has G & W Architects for its architectural design, DA Abcede & Associates for its project manager, Monolith Construction and Development Corp. for its general contractor, and Design Associates as its mall designer.

During the latter quarter of this year, SM Prime will be opening two supermalls—SM Cagayan de Oro in the Mindanao region and SM City Bicutan in the southern metro area.

Megaworld introduces residential landmark in Eastwood Parkview

LEADING urban property developer Megaworld Corp. takes the live-work-dine-shop lifestyle it popularized in its flagship Eastwood City development a step higher with the recent launch of its latest triple-A grade, twin-tower condominium project called Eastwood Parkview.

Inspired by the Miami architectural style, the deluxe residential project comprises two 40-story glass- and spandrel-clad towers on top of a five-level podium and surrounded by a sprawling 2.8-hectare central park with a lagoon.

Located on what is now Eastwood City's central parking area, Eastwood Parkview features executive studio and one- to three-bedroom residences with floor areas up to 106.5 square meters.

Reputation

With businessmen, corporate executives, young professionals, couples, starting families, bachelors and students as its market, Eastwood Parkview affirms its reputation as Metro Manila's new power address with a wealth of fine amenities and building facilities for its privileged residents.

Each unit is efficiently planned with roomy living and dining areas and attractive floor-to-ceiling windows and boasts built-in modular closets, a kitchen with a modular counter cabinet, ceramic tiles for the kitchen and toilet and wood grain vinyl planks for the living, dining and sleeping quarters, mechanical ventilation for the toilets and a one unit package terminal air-conditioner for every bedroom.

The amenity and leisure deck on the podium's fifth level features a tropical-style swimming pool with a pool deck lounge, covered lanais, landscaped playground and gardens, a multipurpose room, gym, sauna and changing rooms with shower.

Provided for the utmost convenience and safety of homeowners are round-the-clock security, automatic fire sprinkler system, overhead water tank and underground cistern, standby power generator for common areas, maintenance and housekeeping services, multilevel basement parking and a rooftop helipad.

Central park

What sets Eastwood Parkview apart from other residential towers in Eastwood City is an expansive central park that is the focal point of the mixed-use complex. The park features a garden promenade, a lagoon, water features, picnic grounds and a mix of upscale bars, restaurants and retail shops.

Casual dining restaurants found on two- to three-story floating shop houses around the park are perfect for al fresco dining, with unobstructed views of the lagoon and the lush greenery.

"Eastwood Parkview residents will have the luxury to unwind after hours at the central park's restaurants and leisure facilities just a few steps away and still have time for a good night's rest," says John Natividad, vice president for marketing of Eastwood Property Holdings Inc., Megaworld's exclusive marketing arm for the project.

Project dev't team

"A primary design consideration is the use of fluid, curvilinear lines for the towers to provide a fitting contrast to the surrounding buildings," says Carmelo Casas, a partner of project architect Recio+Casas Inc.

The project development team includes award-winning ACL+Clouston, landscape architect; Design Alliance, interior designer; GE Origenes & Associates, structural consultant; Guevara & Partners, mechanical and sanitary consultant; and EP Dabao & Associates, electrical consultant.

Model units are available for viewing at the Eastwood City Grand Showroom in Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City.

Robinsons Land tops off mall in Santa Rosa, Laguna

ROBINSONS Land Corp. Commercial Centers Division (CCD) officers together with the Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa project team, recently attended the topping-off ceremonies of Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa mall at the mall's roof deck. This event signifies that the shopping mall is structurally completed and is ready for occupancy by its new tenants.

Residents of Laguna can expect a full-service mall complemented with a complete retail experience.

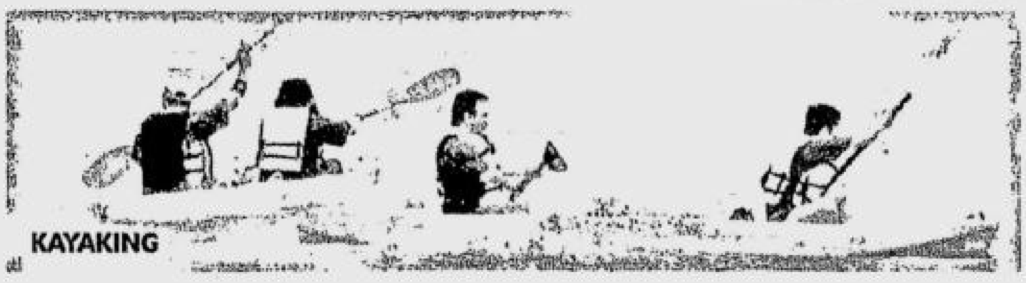
The mall will be anchored by two of the country's foremost retail outlets—the Robinsons Department Store and Big R Supercenter which are expected to open at the end of this year.

Other prestigious and popular outlets will form part of the mall's tenant mix.

Also awaiting the Laguna mallers is a complete entertainment and dining package that includes five cinemas, an amusement center and a fast-food center.

Present during the topping off are, from left, RLC-CDD mall architect Mon Olano, tenant director Lulay Alano, area manager Rene Arnobit together with Manny Mendoza, president of Monolith (general contractor), RLC-CDD's vice president for lease, Minda V. Carpio, Art Carlos, president of Constech (construction manager), RLC-CDD's senior project manager, architect Lalaine Gobot of G&W Architects and Christine Cobankiat of Sincere Construction.

ROBINSONS Land officials and those involved in the shopping mall construction participate in the topping-off ceremonies.



KAYAKING

MOUNTAIN biking

White Cove Resort hosts Isuzu event

WHITE Cove Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, recently hosted the first-ever staging in the Philippines of the Isuzu Challenge, a major adventure event held every year by giant Japanese automaker Isuzu Motors Ltd. in certain countries where it operates.

The event organizers picked the 16-hectare White Cove because its size can accommodate big groups and handle various aqua sports and outdoor games.

More than 280 Isuzu Philippines Corp. officials, media people and Isuzu vehicle owners participated in the event. They competed in beach volleyball, jet skiing, kayaking, mountain biking and flag capture, a simulated commando-type combat using paint spray guns. Later in the night, Isuzu Philippines treated its guests to a beach party with live bands.

White Cove Resort is owned and operated by UCPB. It is one of the acquired properties that the bank's Asset Management Group has transformed from idle assets into revenue-earning ones. Although renovation work is still going on, the resort has been attracting a steady stream of vacationers since it opened to the public early this year.

White Cove has the making of a world-class tourist destination and an upscale vacation community. It is very accessible and offers one of the finest beaches in the Nasugbu area.

Visitors can stay either at the hotel or the condominium units. Facilities are also available for day tours.

There are outdoor and indoor facilities for special events. Concessionaires provide food catering service and rent out jet skis and kayaks.

Plumbers confab set Nov. 19-20

NATIONAL Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines (Nampap) national president Alberto T. Cabael said the master plumbers will be holding their 67th anniversary and national convention on Nov. 19-20 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Invited were Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Tesda director general Dante V. Liban as guest of honor and keynote speaker, respectively. Magsay-say and Rep. Joseph Francis Escudero are the principal authors of the Plumbing Engineering Law that will upgrade master plumbers to plumbing engineers.

Contribution

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo said this year's convention theme "Professional Master Plumbers—Pipeline to Economic Development," highlights Nampap's resolute efforts to contribute to the realization of her administration's national agenda.

Nampap has lined up a series of activities for the celebration, aside from the prestigious Nampap golf tournament on Nov. 18 to be played at the Intramuros Golf Club and sponsored by Emerald Vinyl Corp.

What to expect

Delegates will be treated to a two-day technical session conducted by well-respected resource speakers and product presentations of exhibitors of the state-of-the-art plumbing tools, materials and equipment.

There will also be a convocation of fellows to master plumbers who have distinguished themselves in the service of their profession and the association as well as the election of directors and officers of Nampap and the special general assembly of its multi-purpose cooperative.

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But the greatest benefit of using **RJ WALL PUTTY**, according to **Engineers** and **Architects** who tested the products, is in **Time Savings: RJ WALL PUTTY** requires only **two hours drying time** while the **old method** demands about **eight hours**. They observed that **RJ WALL PUTTY** is **perfect** for **renovation** and **repair** works for **homes** and **offices**. It is likewise **highly recommended** when painting **gypsum** boards and **cement boards**.

Unlike in the old method wherein what is mixed must be consumed less it goes to waste, **RJ WALL PUTTY** comes in resealable plastic so that any unused portion maybe stored for future use, thus providing **Zero Wastage in material use**.

And because of its white color, **RJ WALL PUTTY** provides **additional savings** by allowing painters to **use less paint** to cover the surface.

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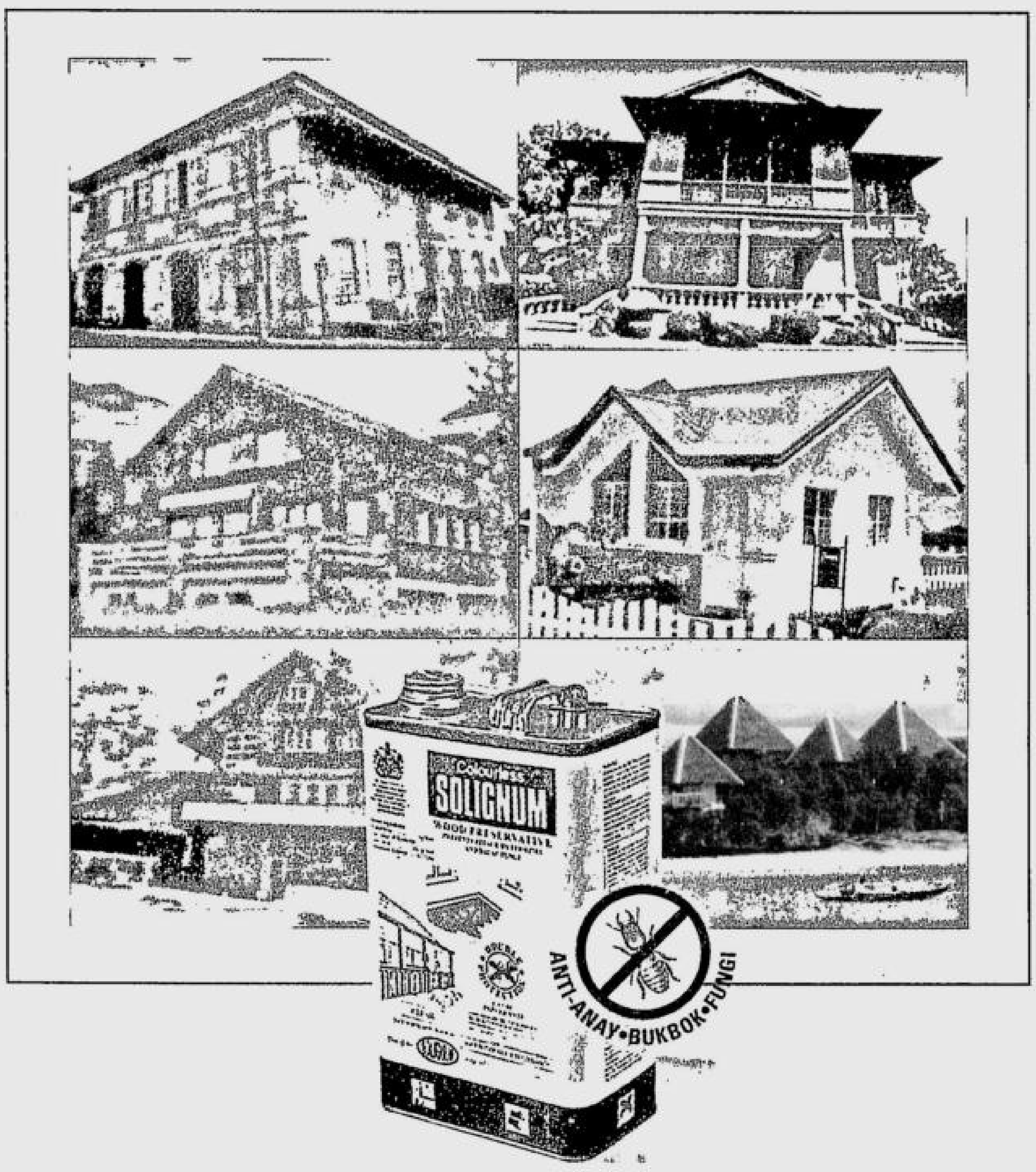

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Dynamic lifestyle at Vivant Flats

CAREER couples such as Neric and Doreen Pacunnayen live and breathe the chic metropolitan scene during the workweek when each one spends time to conduct their respective routines.

As branch manager of Honda Cars, Doreen is frequently traveling—revving up a slick sales and service operation expected of the brand.

Neric, on the other hand, has the sweet deals—running the family confectionery distribution business fast-paced and competitive.

Newlyweds and still warming to their new state of life, the couple looks for a habitat which provides them a sense of "au bon vivant" from the time they arrive from work to the following morning when the pace calibrates once again to a feverish mode.

Comfortable haven

Coming home to a place such as Vivant Flats is a dream," says Doreen. Everything is a walk or a call away. If I don't feel like cooking, there are restaurants and take-out places within Filinvest Corporate City."

On weekends, when the couple prefer to wind down, the Vivant Flats' living space allows them their comfortable haven such as a master bedroom with a walkout balcony feature.

You can opt to connect with your city life just by looking out the window or walking out the bedroom balcony for a really terrific view of the Alabang metropolis, or you can shut it out," says Neric. "Once your doors are closed, you know you're home."

Ideal habitat

Vivant Flats is an ideal habitat for local career executives, expat professionals working in the Calabarzon area or empty nesters who wish to reside in a less crowded metropolis, close to recreational, dining and shopping areas.

For this type of resident, Filinvest Alabang Inc. created four variations of living: a single bedroom, two-bedroom and garden suites. Each of Vivant Flats models is designed with the comfort of today's lifestyle demands of the modern city dweller.

Landmark projects

The architectural design of the 22-story residential tower was contracted to Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo Architectural Firm of California, well-known for landmark projects such as Ritz Carlton Four Seasons and Shangri-La Hotels.

The Palace Tower at Caesar's Palace Las Vegas, the Palace of the Lost City in Bophuthatswana South Africa, Disney's Grand Floridian Beach Resort are other landmark projects which WAT & G is acclaimed for.

Financial security

To give buyers or investors financial security, Filinvest is offering a "Shared Development Plan" whereby buyers' equity is deposited into a trust account. Disbursements to suppliers and services required in developing the project are drawn directly from this account, ensuring that project funds are secured and monitored.

Interested parties may visit the Vivant Flats model units at the third level of Festival Mall Alabang.

NERIC cajoles his new bride as she tries her first cooking challenge. The kitchen is comfortably laid out in a corner of the dining area.

THE FAVORITE spot in their abode is the bedroom where the couple spend long hours watching their favorite films.

WHAT else can a newlywed couple ask for? Tastefully done interiors warm their days spent at home.

THE DINING and living room areas allow "connectedness," especially when the couple have friends or kin visiting.

New developments in Greater South

A VISIT to the Greater South reveals new and exciting developments in the south of Metro Manila area starting from Alabang-Muntinlupa and extending all the way to the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) region.

The Calabarzon region, which comprises 20 percent of the total population of the country, is likewise ideally located near the growing "new business district south of Manila," the municipality of Muntinlupa. It has experienced the rise of various commercial projects such as the Alabang Town Center, Madrigal Business Park and The Bellevue Manila, the newest hotel which offers international standards of service and modern facilities.

Dubbed as the "most ambitious agro-industrial development project" of the Aquino administration in the early '90s, the Calabarzon is a consolidation of the five provinces south and east of Manila. It has been referred to as the Philippines' "answer to Indonesia's Batam Island, Malaysia's John Estate and Singapore's Jurong Industrial Estate" by one local magazine.

Business opportunities

Ideally situated near Metro Manila, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) and within commuting distance to the financial hub that is Makati, the Calabarzon area is more than just a tourist spot. It is also a strategic location for business and investments such as new hotels like The Bellevue Manila in Alabang that caters to business travelers and tourists alike.

Cavite—A strategic conduit of fresh investments, both local and foreign, Cavite is one of the key players of Calabarzon. According to former Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla, "...the actual and potential resources of Cavite are recognized as forming a significant part of the agricultural and food supply base of Metro Manila."

In addition, Cavite offers tourists numerous attractions, both natural and man-made like the Aguinaldo Shrine, Mt. Palay-pay National Park and the popular Tagaytay with its fantastic scenery and cool climate.

Laguna—The home province of national hero Jose Rizal, Laguna is also home to the Laguna Techno Park, a world-class integrated and planned industrial community which straddles the towns of Sta. Rita and Biñan. Other towns like Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao are sites of other industrial parks where big name companies have put up factories.

The province is also popular for its hot springs resorts which were its claim to fame until the opening of the amusement park, The Enchanted Kingdom.

Batangas—The town of Taal in Batangas is well-known for the Taal Volcano, hailed as the smallest peak in the whole world and a popular tourist destination as well. Taal is likewise the "site of the country's rich Filipino-Hispanic architecture," according to an article in Mabuhay Magazine.

Quezon—Quezon province is as important as the other players in Calabarzon because it offers a significant Pacific Ocean port in the town of Infanta. Highways and other necessary infrastructure are being completed to support what is envisioned to be an international port.

The province is also known for tourist spots such as Pagsanjan Falls and Villa Escudero.

Aside from the improvement of roads and highways, the areas in and around Calabarzon are seeing the rise of more commercial establishments as well as residential villages to cater to the growing population that progress brings.

SHELTER MONTH

Shelter month kicked off with a housing exhibit and home financing forum at the House of Representatives. Among the main features of the model house using the technology such as steel framing, CPAC roofing and EC board for walling. Inspecting the model are Rep. Prospero Nograles and wife Rhodora, Housing Secretary Michael T. Defensor, Creba Social Housing Foundation president Demy Posadas and other guests.

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Kaya kahit ilang bagyo pa ang manindak sa bahay mo, **walang kaba, walang takot sa Shell Flintkote!**

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Bargain hunting at Eastwood City's night market

THE HOLIDAY bazaar season starts as early as this October with the opening of a three-month-long night market at the Eastwood City complex in Quezon City.

Occupying more than 3,000 sq. m. of bargain-hunting space right in Eastwood City's central parking area, the night market features 150 different stalls that offer attractively priced men's and ladies' apparel, shoes, leather goods, toys, gift items, home decor, handicrafts, glassworks, novelties, mobile phones and accessories and other hard-to-find items.

Complementing the bargain shops are food stalls that sell local delicacies, fruits, traditional Chinese-cooked snacks and refreshments. A special treat for children is the merry-go-rounds and swings and video gaming arcades.

The Eastwood City Night Market is on from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight on weekdays and up to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Concerts and exhibits will be held every night to provide non-stop entertainment for bargain hunters, with the vibrant Eastwood cityscape as a fitting backdrop.

According to Kevin Tan, commercial services group head of Electronic Realty Associates (ERA) Philippines, Inc., the exclusive marketing arm for the bazaar, the night market caters not only to value-conscious shoppers but also to very busy individuals who have very limited time to shop.

"The late evening shopping hours at the night market are designed with busy professionals, Eastwood City residents, City Walk diners and CyberPark employees in mind," Tan said. "Compared with other night bazaars, the Eastwood Night Market will have a very festive atmosphere, much like a baratilyo where shopping, food and fun converge for the whole family."

An added feature of this one-of-a-kind shopping experience is the presence of ample parking areas in and around the Eastwood City complex.

ALI SUPPORTS LAGUNA INVESTMENT BID

For the third straight year, the Laguna Investment Promotions Bureau (LIPB)—in cooperation with the Laguna provincial government—is holding a trade fair and exhibition showcasing the products and services of major companies recognized as growth drivers in the province. LIPB is a one-stop-shop for first-time investors in Laguna, which was put up jointly by the Laguna provincial government and Ayala Land. The 2-week mall exhibit dubbed Laguna Expo 2002 reeled off Sept. 16 to 22 at the Ayala Center in Makati and is ongoing until Oct. 22 at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa. Shown is Laguna Gov. Teresita 'Ningning' Lazaro leading the ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Ayala Land assistant vice president and LIPB chair Bobby Chan (5th from left) and Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Tom Clemente (5th from right). Joining them are some of Laguna's mayors, provincial board members and other top officials.

SPECIAL AWARD

Col. Wilbur L. Chan PN (M), right, receives the special award from Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes as Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin P. Defensor Jr. (left) looks on. The award is given to him in a ceremony in recognition for his outstanding service to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in relation to socioeconomic development, peace and order and nation building.

Sharp promo launched

SHARP (Phils.) Corp., one the country's leading consumer electronics goods manufacturers, recently launched a nationwide promotion made up of two exciting components to win prizes. The first, dubbed Be Sharp, Be a Winner! is a "traditional" type of promotion featuring raffles with high-value products as prizes. The second, called TexTrivia Daily Raffle, requires the use of the popular SMS (text messaging) feature of mobile phones for participation.

But while the Be Sharp, Be a Winner! promotion has a traditional raffle concept, the implementation isn't traditional at all: computer technology will be used to randomly select numbers. Instead of participants filling in a traditional raffle coupon, they instead fill in an information card with their name, address, telephone number, signature and the receipt/invoice number of the purchased appliance, while the dealer salesman fills in the store, branch, model and his name. This information card is dropped in a drop-box in the dealer store. All information cards are then encoded in a computer, and a system automatically assigns electronic raffle entries corresponding to the product model/category of the purchased appliance.

Winners will then be randomly selected through the computer system. Encoding of the information cards to the computer system shall be witnessed by a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) representative. At stake in Be Sharp, Be a Winner! are a brand new BMW 316i for the grand prize, with Sharp audio-visual home entertainment showcases and Sharp home appliance showcases as second and third prizes, respectively. The grand draw will be held on Jan. 9, 2003, while winners will be announced via GMA-7's "Eat Bulaga!" on Jan. 11, 2003.

The TexTrivia Daily Raffle is open to Smart and Talk N' Text users, either Sharp buyers or not. Those interested in participating can simply text "Sharp" and send to 245 to receive the details. Beginning Sept. 21, one Nokia 3310 unit will be awarded to one winner daily. Daily winners of the Nokia 3310 units will be randomly selected through a computer system. Daily winners in the TexTrivia game who can present an official receipt or sales invoice of any Sharp appliance purchased (not necessarily within the promo period) shall receive a bonus prize of one Sharp portable CD cassette recorder.

A total of 102 texters will be drawn to win Nokia 3310s in the daily text-based promotion. Promo period will last until Dec. 31. A hotline number, 746-4611, has also been activated for prompt attention to queries regarding the promotion.

IBC 13 TELECASTS CMMA 2002

The Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp (IBC 13) signed a memorandum of agreement with the Catholic Mass Media Awards Foundation Inc (CMMA), giving IBC 13 the rights to produce and telecast the CMMA 2002 Awards Night on Oct. 22 at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University. The CMMA 2002 Awards Night was made possible through partners such as Pagcor, Megaworld and Goldilocks. At the signing were Tessie Taylor, production manager of IBC 13, Celia Goduco, head, CMMA secretariat, lawyer Renato Bello, president and COO of IBC 13, Col. Antonio Cabangon-Chua, chair and president of the CMMA board of trustees, Rev. Fr. Joselito Jopson, executive director of CMMA, and engineer Feorelio Bote, member, CMMA board of trustees.

DSAP ENDORSES 2ND DM FORUM

The Direct Sellers Association of the Philippines (DSAP), one of the largest direct marketing groups in the country, is a sponsor of the 2nd Philippine Direct Marketing Forum (DM Forum) on Nov. 13 and 14 at the Shangrila Hotel, Makati City. Shown are Louie Migne (2nd from right), DSAP secretary general, Ella del Rosario (left), DSAP assistant secretary general, Ardy Roberto (2nd from left), DM Forum founder and chair, and Lui Mauban, DM Forum project director, formalizing the agreement. The DM Forum is one of the country's major marketing events participated in by a broad spectrum of practitioners in the marketing industry. It tackles some of the latest trends, strategies and techniques in direct marketing like customer relationship management, SMS marketing or text marketing and direct mailing, which are presented by the industry's finest practitioners as well as foreign and local experts. For more information, call 813-2732 or 813-2703, 0916-5884877, or log on to www.dmforum.net, e-mail dmforum@edsamall.com.ph.

DIAN
BR
RITA

DIANA TUNA LAUNCH

Recently, Philbest, headed by its chair Rodrigo Rivera Sr., launched Diana Tuna at Richmonde Hotel. Beaming with pride, Rivera introduced his newest baby to dealers and special guests. Watch out for Diana Tuna at leading groceries nationwide.

CONQUERING THE ROPES CHALLENGE

La Corona Pagsanjan hosted the 3rd batch of the Ropes Course Facilitation Workshop for Trainers Aug. 28 and 29 at Kampo Pagsanjan, a 4.5-hectare venue sought after for its outdoor ropes course activities. The workshop was facilitated by sports writer and outdoor trainer Lito Cinco, together with technical safety instructor Marc Gana. Conquering the Low and High Events of the course were corporate trainers from Learning Alliances Asia, Smart Communications Inc., SPI Technologies Inc, IRRI, Standard Insurance, University of Asia & the Pacific, Philam Plans, and Global Business Alliance. The next workshop is on Oct. 23 and 24. For inquiries, call La Corona's sales and marketing group at 524-2631.

BITS Clips

Security products display

STATE-of-the-art protection of life and property has become a major industry in itself. This is now available on a four-day "Security Products Display" and series of seminars that will cover CCTV, access control, intrusion, panic and fire alarms, mechanical and electric locks, vehicle and pedestrian barrier systems, A/V intercom system, metal and explosion detection systems, X-ray, paging systems, BMS System, central station monitoring and hotel locking systems. From Oct. 22 to 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., display and seminars will be held at the 3rd Floor, SGV Hall, AIM (Acceed) Building, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The display is sponsored by Guard-All Electronic Security Systems Inc. For free invitations, call Chona, Mags, Helen, or Marie at 812-0506; 817-4132; 813-5457 or 812-7056, fax no. 812-3380.

Tevsaa-Unlad confab

THE TECHNICAL Vocational School Administrators' Association (Tevsaa) and the United Leaders for Academic Development (Unlad) is holding its Tevsaa-Unlad Convention Oct. 21 and 22 at the Ballroom of the Pearl Manila Hotel, Gen. Luna corner Taft and UN Avenues, Ermita, Manila. Among the topics to be presented are Working With the Union, Labor Issues in Education, Faculty Performance Evaluation, Organizing and Maintaining Guidance Services, Local and International Academic Linkages, Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation, Communication and Writing Workshop. This year's theme is "Strategic Positioning for Education Excellence". For details, call Helen Europeo at 734-3704 or Evlin Fuentes at 757-1194.

Entertainment at Festival Supermall

FIRST-RATE entertainment and fun kiddie activities amidst festive settings and glorious food and drinks make Chefs Avenue at Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang the perfect venue to spend time with friends or family during the week. Chefs Avenue is at Level 3. This month, Chefs Avenue offers soothing midweek entertainment with "Wednesday Rendezvous". Enjoy the classics, and more, from some of the country's finest artists and musicians on Oct. 23 and 30 starting at 6 p.m. Then, on Saturdays and Sundays, enjoy the fun games and treats at the Kiddie Carnival Party. For inquiries on Chefs Avenue activities and the mall's other special events, call the marketing division at 850-3517, customer service 850-3514, or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

The Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) intends to engage the services of domestic consulting firms to assist the Local Government Units (LGUs) for the Detailed Engineering Design and Construction Supervision of their proposed infrastructure components.

The types of infrastructure will include: (a) roads and bridges; (b) water supply system; (c) public markets; (d) bus and jeepney terminals; (e) sanitation, drainage and flood control; (f) solid waste management; (g) foreshore development; (h) slaughterhouses; (i) municipal hall buildings; (j) hospitals; (k) school buildings; and (l) sports complex.

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Eligible applicants may obtain the Prequalification (PQ) Statement Forms from the Office of Project Development Services (OPDS), 5th Floor, at the abovementioned address or call telephone numbers 9250388, 9204312, and 9299601 for more information.

(Sgd.) Atty. **AGRIPINO G. MORGA**
Undersecretary for Administration
and BAC Chairman

(PDI--13 & 22, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 20
CITY OF MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN ITEM NO. 6 OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO FROM MALE TO FEMALE

LYDIA CORDERO-MERCADO
Plaintiff

-versus-
SP. PROC. NO. 02-104518

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Respondent

x-----------------------x

ORDER

The verified Petition filed before this Court by Lydia Cordero Mercado, through her counsel, prays that after due notice and hearing, an Order be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of Manila to correct the birth certificate of CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO, as follows:

xx xx xx

4. SEX
From : Male
To : Female

Finding the aforesaid verified petition to the sufficient in form and substance, the same shall be heard by the Court sitting at Room 528, Manila City Hall, on November 14, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila or any person having or claiming any interest under the entries sought to be corrected, may within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition or from the last date of the publication of this Order, file his/her/ their opposition thereto and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

The petitioner is hereby directed to cause the publication of this Order at her expense, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the scheduled date of hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by raffle, pursuant to P.D. 1079.

Furnish copies of the petition and this Order the Office of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Manila.

Likewise, let copies of this Order be furnished petitioner Lydia Cordero Mercado and her counsel, as well as the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court of Manila.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, 10 September 2002.

(Sgd.) MARIVIC T. BALISI-UMALI
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 17, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF AN ERRONEOUS ENTRY IN THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF SPOUSES RUBEN MALABANAN AND EVELYN CUENCA MALABANAN AND THE PARISH PRIEST OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH,
Petitioners,

SP PROC. NO. 02-102596

- versus -

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA AS FORMAL PARTY RESPONDENT,
Respondent

x-----------------------x

ORDER

To rectify the date in regard to the date of the nuptial betwixt Ruben Malabanan and Evelyn Cuenca Malabanan, from November 28, 1981 to November 20, 1981 as reflected on their "Marriage Contract" (Register No. 1530 [K-81]), the supplication therefor was initiated by the petitioners on January 14, 2002 (paragraphs 1-10, Petition dated January 07, 2002; Annex "A" - "C").

Upon issuance of the incipient Order of March 5, 2002 from then Acting Presiding Judge Rodolfo A. Ponferrada with respect to the publication thereof in a newspaper of general circulation, counsel for the petitioner expressed his inability to comply therewith as a result of financial constraints to meet the publication cost of the Philippine Daily Inquirer ("Urgent Ex Parte Motion/ Request for a Re-Raffle of Newspaper" dated May 20, 2002, Section 4, Rule 129; Section 2(a), Rule 131, Revised Rules on Evidence) followed by an analogous motion on June 13, 2002. Nonetheless, action thereon was held in abeyance per the Order of August 23, 2002.

As a consequence of counsel for petitioners' "Ex Parte Motion to Set the Case for Hearing and to Order Publication Thereof" on September 2, 2002, consistent with Section 4, Rule 108 of the Revised Rules of Court, let a copy of this Order be published, at the petitioner's expense, for three (3) consecutive weeks on the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Meanwhile, the hearing relative to the jurisdictional facts of the "Petition" is hereby slated on November 18, 2002, Monday, at 8:30 in the morning.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Manila, September 11, 2002

(Sgd.) EDUARDO B. PERALTA, JR.
Presiding Judge

(PDI--Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

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Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's eligibility requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

For the purpose of clarifications, bidders are invited to attend the pre-bidding conference which will be conducted on October 30, 2002 at Conference Rm. Kilometer 9 Industrial Site, Malangas Zamboanga-Sibugay. Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements, Bid Proposal and Tender Documents will be set during the Pre-Bidding Conference.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd) Ricardo S. Basallo, Jr.
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2002)

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MR. ERNESTO and NENE FERNANDEZ

Grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in the family residence at **#7 Tamaro, Bayambang, Pangasinan.**

Interment will be on **Saturday, October 26, 2002** after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the **St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church.**

In Christ all shall be made alive...
Corinthian 15:22

Lim Yu (Rosa Tan)

Now peacefully joined her Creator on 20 October 2002 at the age of 75.

Her bereaved children **Lucy, Lily, Henry** and **Sonia, Stephen** and **Nancy, Dante** and **Vicky** and grandchildren request the pious readers to kindly pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, old bldg. Chapel B.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 26, 2002, at the Chinese Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

AMDG

ARMANDO "Dingdong" R. Austria

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 20, 2002.

His loving wife **Minna J. Lopez**; children **Patooch & Alan, Mayen, Mia, Tisa** (& special friend **Natson**) and **Paolo (PJ)**, grandson **Chino**, sister **Sylvia** and brother-in-law **Rene Valdes**, mother-in-law **Renee J. Lopez**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, October 23, 2002 at 9:00 AM. Cremation will immediately follow.

PETER A. CU

A family-oriented man, beloved husband to **SUSAN**, caring father to **PHILIP, SANDRA** and **SHERYL**, son of **PRIMITIVA GUAN**, brother to **ALEX, JOHNY, ESTER, BETTY** and **SUSANA**, friend to many whose lives he has touched has joined the Lord on Sunday, 20th of October 2002, at the age of 55.

He lies in state at the **Love Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels** 12 G. Araneta Ave., Q.C. Mass will be offered on Saturday, 26th of October 2002, 8:00 a.m. Cremation service will follow at the **La Funeraria Paz Q.C.** at 10:00 a.m. He will permanently rest at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish.**

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delight at your right hand forever..."
Psalm 16:11

We, The Oblates of St. Joseph-Philippine Province and The Sison y Mendoza clan of Rosario and Sta. Clara, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, are offering a Special Day of Prayer
In loving memory of our dearly beloved

Rev. Fr. SANCHO MENDOZA SISON, O.S.J.

Former O.S.J. Provincial Superior-Philippine Province

On the occasion of his First Death Anniversary on October 22, 2002.

A special Mass will be offered Tuesday, October 22, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph, San Jose, Batangas.

Blessing of the tomb and floral offerings will follow after the Mass at San Jose Catholic Cemetery, San Jose, Batangas.

Masses are also offered in the following Churches:

Presentation of the Child Jesus *BF Homes, Parañaque*	6:00 AM	**Christ Prince of Peace Parish** *Manchester MO., USA*	7:00 AM
Mary Queen of Apostles *San Antonio Valley, Parañaque*	6:00 AM	**Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph** *Aurora Blvd., Proj. 3 QC*	7:00 AM
San Nicolas de Tolentino *Congressional Ave., QC*	6:00AM	**Sta. Clara Parish** *Sta. Clara, Sto. Tomas, Batangas*	8:30 AM
Holy Family Parish *Kamias, QC*	6:00 AM & 6:30 PM	**Sto. Rosario Parish** *Rosario, Batangas*	6:00 PM
Good Shepherd Parish *Fairview Park, QC*	6:00 AM	**Sto. Tomas Parish** *Sto. Tomas, Batangas*	6:00 PM
Holy Family Parish *Kapitolyo, Pasig*	6:00 AM	**Holy Family Parish** *Sampaguita Vill., San Pedro, Laguna*	8:00 PM
Our Lady of the Pillar Parish *Pilar Village, Las Pinas*	6:00 AM		

PEDRO "PETE" SM. SISON

of San Miguel, Bulacan and Quezon City
Former Vice-President of Atlantic Gulf & Pacific
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 21, 2002 at the age of 68

His loving wife **FRANCES M. SISON**, children **Ging-Ging** and **Boy Aure, Boots, Buda** and **Eric Gulinao, Pia, Sermont** and **Ellen** and **Sarah**; grandchildren **Cheska, Leechee, Biboy, Carmina, Soleil, Kyle, Sophia** and **Kay**; brothers, sisters and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave. Quezon City. On October 23, 2002, he will be transferred to his residence in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 26, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at San Miguel Memorial Park.

RACHEL LIGAYA-SAN MIGUEL, Ph.D.

"KELLY"

Born: 14 October 1927
Peacefully joined her Creator on 20 October 2002

Her bereaved family; husband **Peping**, son **Willie**, daughter **Susan**, grandchildren **Alan, Cocoy, Toni**; daughter-in-law **Ayes**, granddaughter-in-law and great grandchildren **Kookie, Chin-Chin** and **Justin**, her brothers and sisters, and all of her relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 24 October 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

CELERINA MACAPAGAL DAGUMBOY

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 19, 2002 at the age of 94.

Her loving children: **Felicing, Arsenio & Beth, Alice, Peping & Cila, Puring, Cely, Tita & Jing, Paquito & Cathy, Edith & Pete, Rey & Ofelia, Estela & Obet** and **Arthur**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence, 132 Gen. Luna St. Caloocan City Tel. 288-8920.

Interment will be on Ocotber 26, 2002 at 9:00 AM at the Ever Memorial Park, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City.

ROSARIO R. GARCIA

Has joined her husband "JOE" and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on October 20, 2002 at the age of 64.

Her loving children **TIN-TIN & MARK, JAYJAY & ARLENE, ANA & JERRICK** and **JO-ANN & EYMARD**; her grandchildren **LOREN, ALEX, LYN-LYN, JOHN-JO, BEA, JAYRON, MIGUI & JONAN**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at **Arlington Memorial Chapels**, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 24, 2002 at the **Holy Cross Memorial Park**, along Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ESTRELLA FERMA Vda. de JATAYNA

August 1, 1912-October 20, 2002

She is survived by her children **Prudencio, Sinforoso, Remedios** and **Narcisa.**

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, October 25, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

COL ISABELO F GAWAT (Ret) PC

of Santa Ana, Manila and Lincoln Wood Chicago ILL. USA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 19, 2002
at the age of 80 at St. Francis Hospital,
Evanston, ILL., USA

His wife **Ciony T. Del Rosario**, children **Cynthia, Manolo** and daughter-in-law, **Yolly** and **Baby Hilado, Dan** and **Becky**; grandchildren, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 23, 2002 at Evanston, Illinois, USA, after the Holy Mass.

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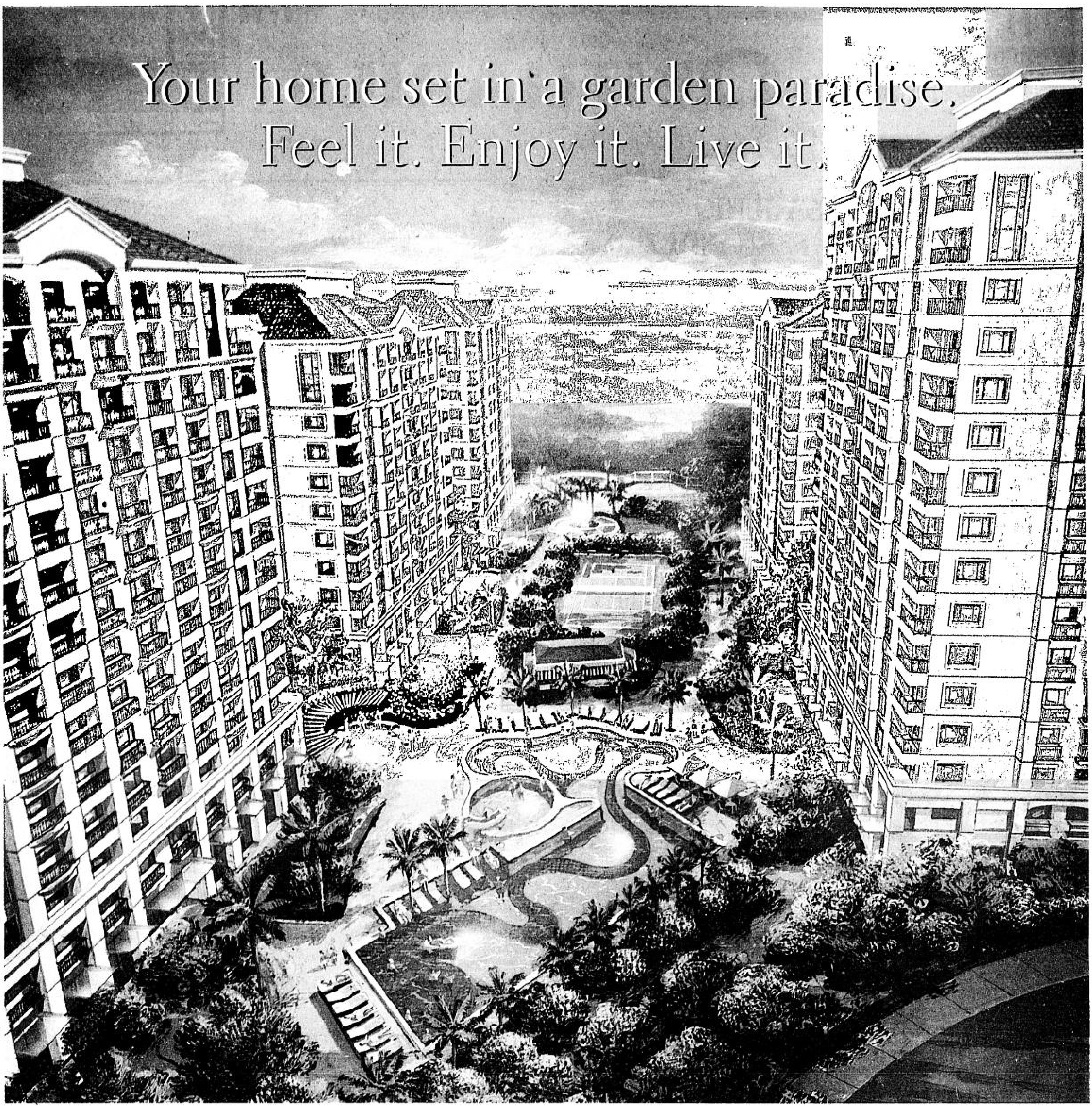
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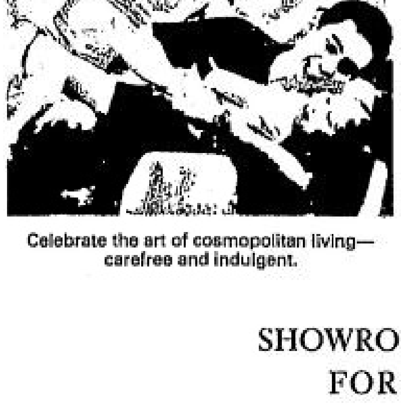

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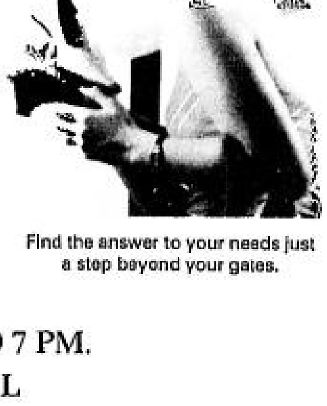

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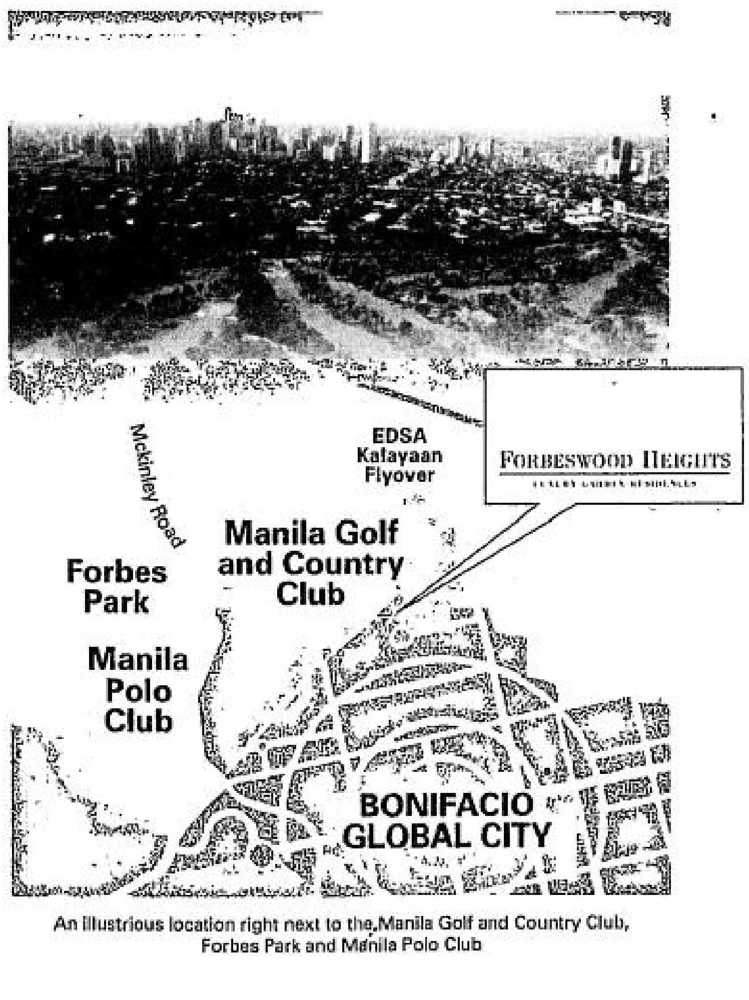
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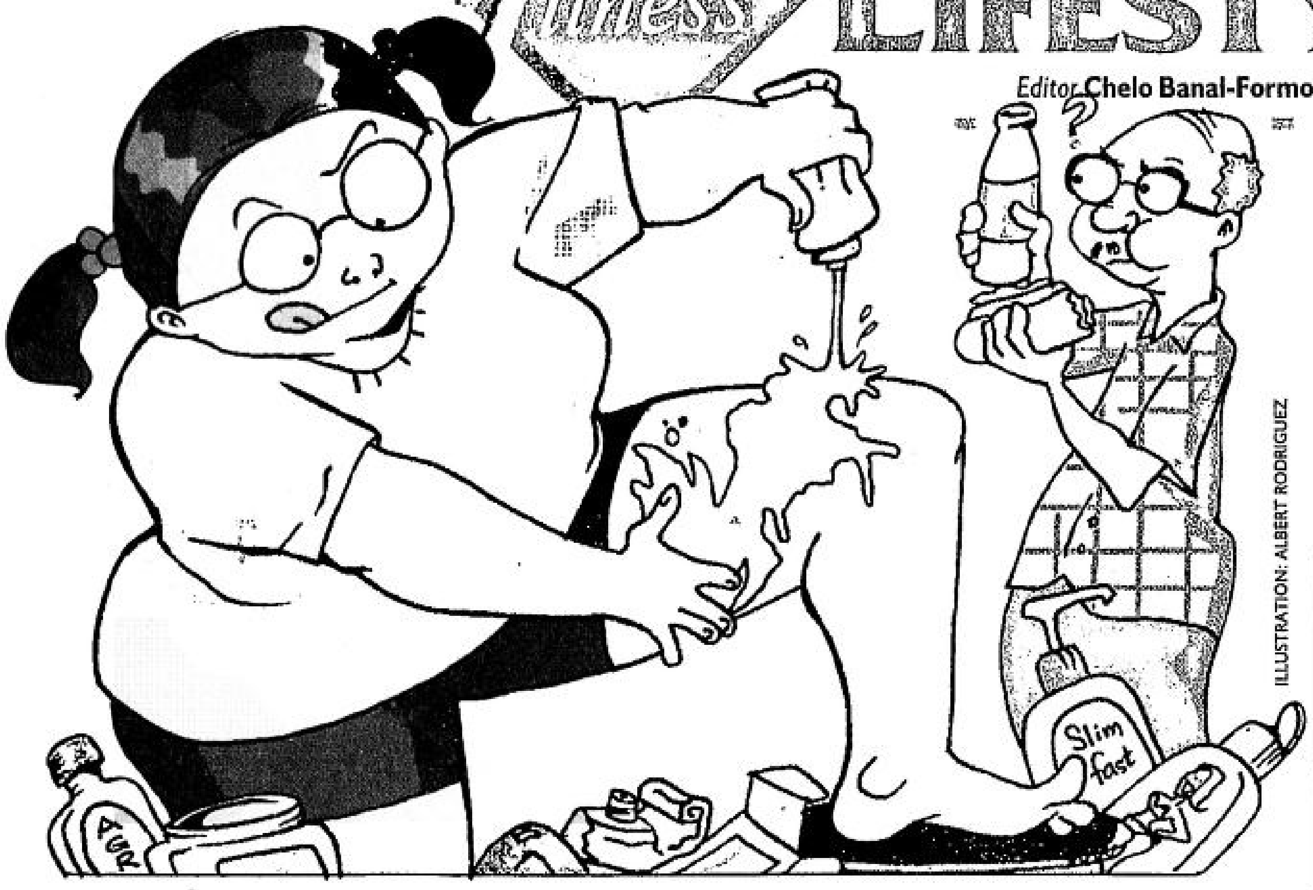

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Do cellulite 'cures' work?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

> As a dermatologist has advised, test a product on one leg first before using all over the body

CELLULITE was a hot topic at the Idea World Fitness Convention held in San Diego, California, last June. Although seminars in this prestigious convention are usually about more "serious" health and fitness topics, well-respected research scientist Len Kravitz presented an in-depth lecture on cellulite because he felt that it was a significant psychological issue for women.

Last week, I shared the possible causes of cellulite based on researches that Dr. Kravitz had reviewed. This week, we will take a close look at cellulite treatments to determine which ones are worth your time, effort and money. I have categorized the treatment into creams, pills, machines, surgery and exercise.

Cellulite affects 85 percent of post-adolescent women and is probably the result of an irregular pattern of connective tissue in the skin, which is vertically anchored to the muscles below. Fat cells are trapped in-between the skin and muscles in cylinder-shaped "fat chambers." Cellulite, both a skin and fat problem, is more pronounced when a woman gains weight and her connective tissue weakens as she grows older. Treatments are designed to either strengthen the skin or reduce the fat, or both.

Creams

The most popular ingredient in cellulite creams is aminophylline (sometimes its chemical cousins, caffeine or theophylline, are used). Aminophylline's claim to fame is that it can make fat cells smaller. This is true "in vitro" or in a laboratory Petri dish where you can literally see fat cells shrink, but not quite true "in vivo" or in real life when applied to a woman's thigh. The reason is aminophylline is absorbed by the dermis, the second layer of the skin, before it reaches the "cellulite zone," the superficial or first fat layer (the second fat layer is called the deep layer, which is where liposuction is done). Aminophylline can be injected directly into the superficial fat layer but you would need an awful lot of injections since cellulite is spread out over a large area. So, while theoretically possible, injection is definitely not a practical idea.

"Transdermal" fat gels, which also contain aminophylline or a similar substance, claim to have overcome the dermis problem. Manufacturers also say their products are good for spot reduction of fat in other parts of the body aside from cellulite-prone areas. However, there is no solid scientific proof yet that their formulation can really go under the dermis to attack the fat cells below. Interestingly, instructions usually include the advice to diet and exercise because "you have to help burn that released fat by exercising or reducing caloric intake so that free fat isn't redeposited." Under those conditions, it would be difficult to determine if the product really works or not.

Another point to consider is that if transdermal gels really have a significant effect on subcutaneous fat, they would be classified as drugs and would require a prescription, according to regulations of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Some promising cellulite creams are those containing retinol, the most active form of Vitamin A. Retinol is a common ingredient in anti-wrinkle creams for the face. It has a proven track record for improving skin thickness and elasticity by working on the collagen and elastin in the dermis. In a recent study done on 15 women, a retinol cream was applied to one leg for six months, while a cream without retinol was used on the other leg. This was a double-blind study, meaning neither the researchers nor the participants knew which leg had which cream. The results showed that skin elasticity improved by 10 percent and the skin on the retinol-treated leg appeared smoother.

Another ingredient that is being studied is ruscogenine, a substance derived from the herb butcher's broom. A study of 46 women showed an improvement in the orange-peel appearance of the skin. However, since the product being tested contained retinol and caffeine as well as ruscogenine, more studies are needed to provide definite answers.

If you want to know which anti-cellulite cream to try, here is some practical advice from dermatologist Mitchel Goldman given during this year's scientific meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology: "Some women report an improvement in cellulite using these over-the-counter creams and others do not," said Dr. Goldman. "What makes one product work over another is really unknown at this point. I would encourage women who want to try one of these products to test it on one leg to see if they notice any improvement over a period of a few months before using it all over their body. If they don't see any improvement, that's really when they should see their dermatologist for other treatment options."

On a personal note, I have used a retinol-based product for three months now ever since listening to Kravitz's cellulite lecture. Although the product makes my skin feel and look a bit smoother, it is no miracle cure. While doing additional research for this article, I came across a website pitching a product called the "Instant Cellulite Eraser." Their refreshingly honest claim that their product only worked for five hours got my attention. If it really works, that's just enough time to have dimple-free thighs while at the beach or on a night out in a short skirt.

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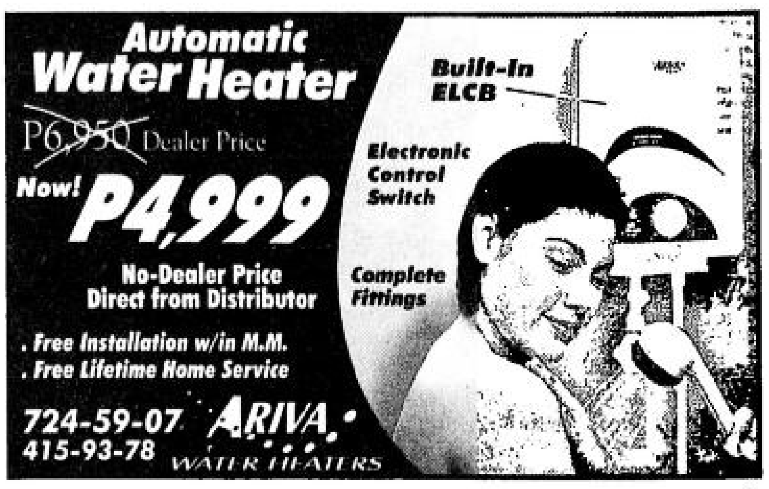
DO/ p.C2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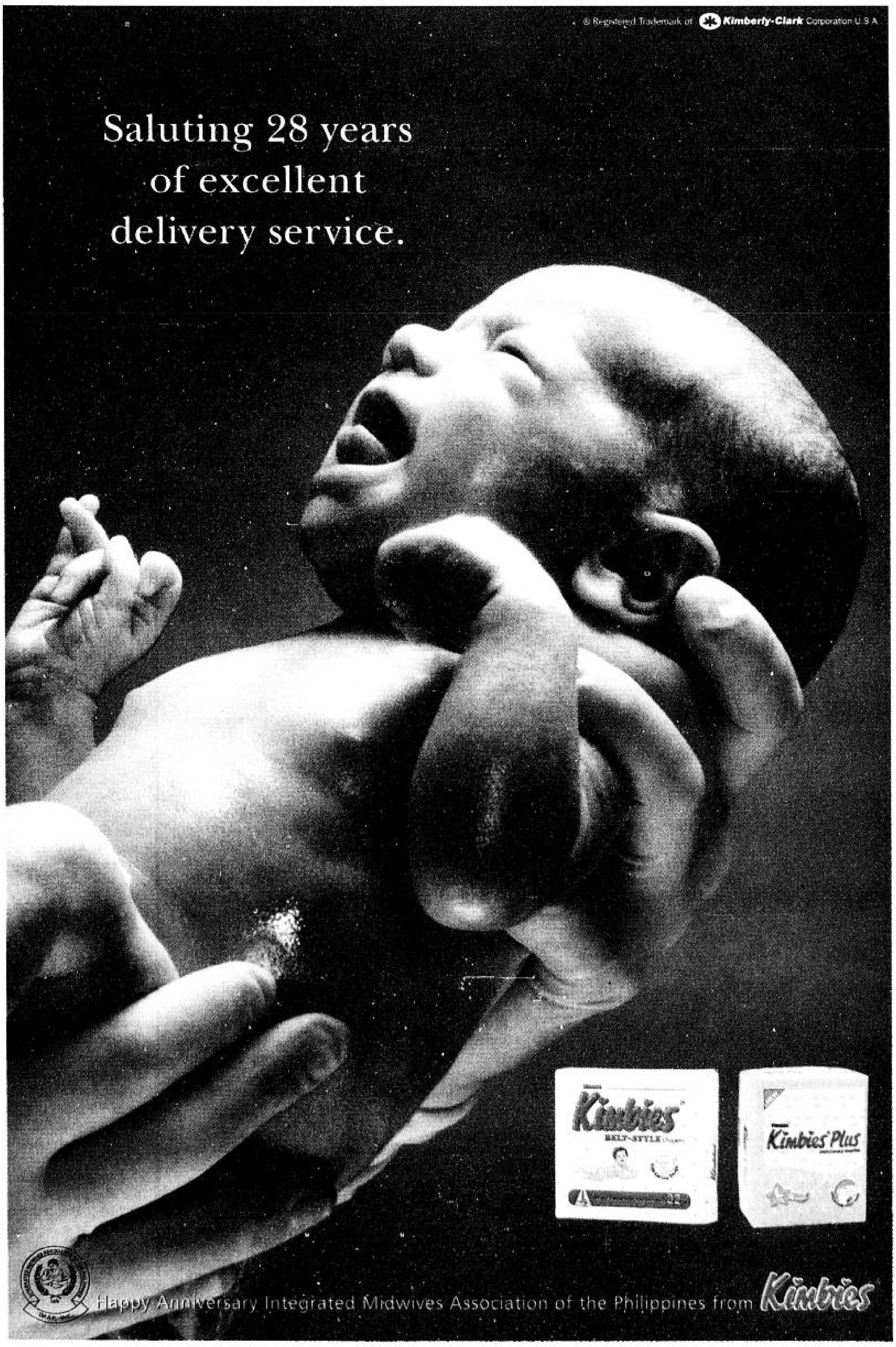

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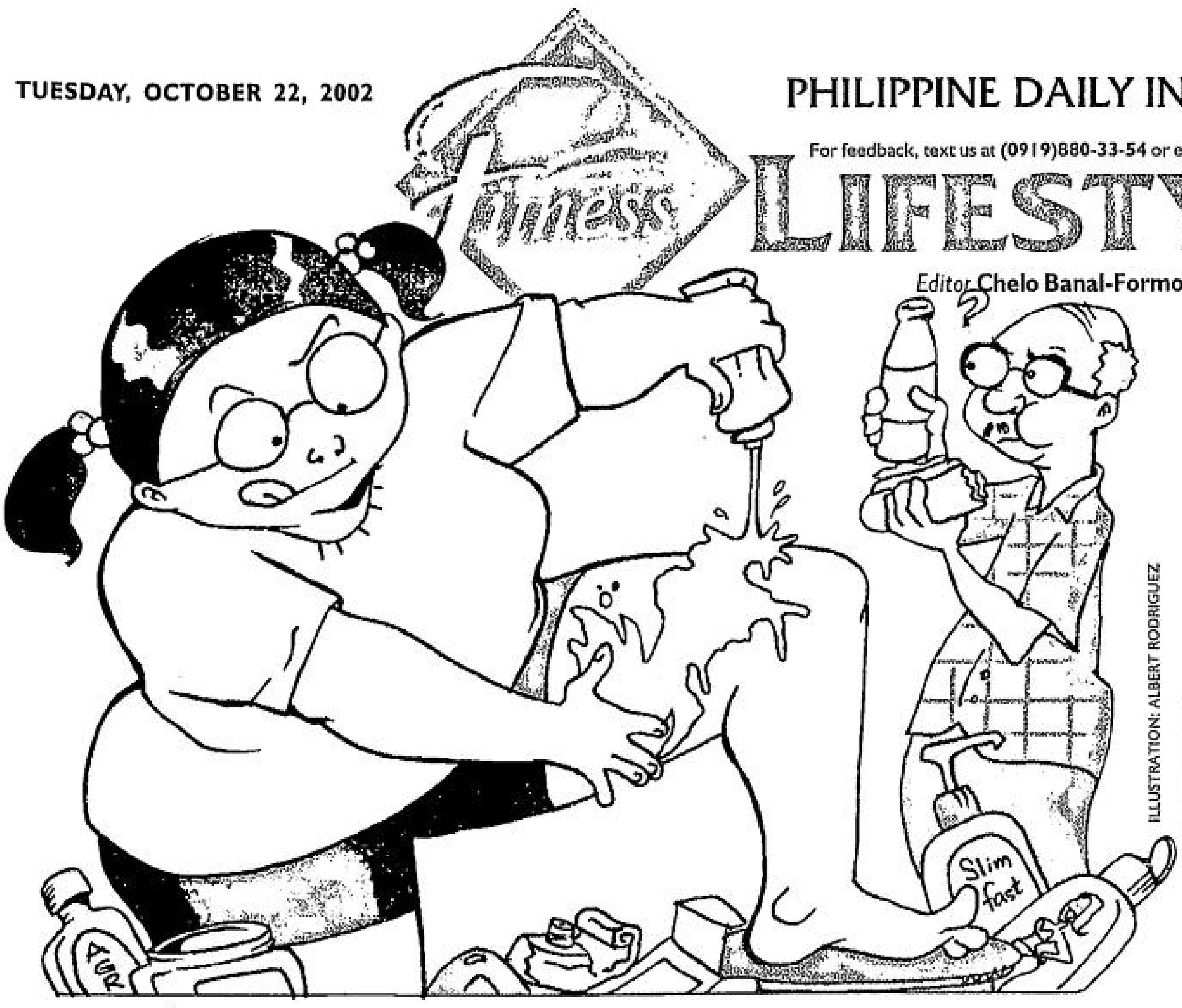

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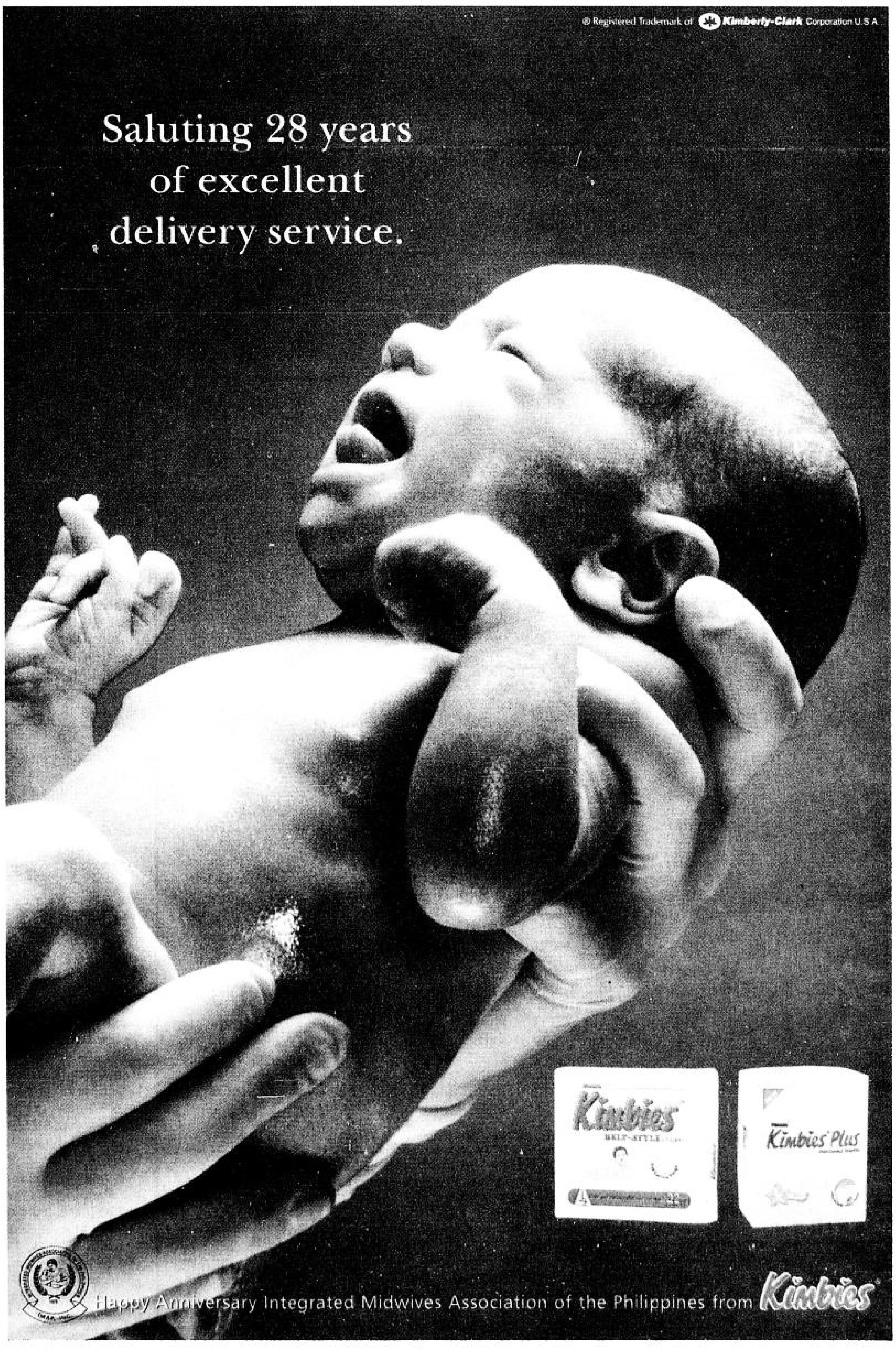
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Businessman seeks explanations to strange encounters

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THE FOLLOWING questions come from a businessman and television producer we shall call Ike, who has had several strange encounters with invisible forces.

- "At a young age, I was attacked by spirits more than once. My mother had to bless my room and place the Sacred Heart of Jesus beside me. The weirdest experience was when my nanny seemed to have been possessed by spirits. Being young, I couldn't defend myself. I [was] hospitalized for a week. Please explain why an evil spirit wanted to suffocate me when I was a child and possess my caretaker."

There are always negative or evil spirits lurking around certain places. They are on the lookout for susceptible persons to attack or to possess. They have not accepted their new state in the spirit world and want to do the same thing they did while alive.

Some of your experiences were caused not by spirits of the dead but by negative elementals or *engkantos*. Local healers call them "engkantos de diablo," in contrast to "engkantos de dios," which are not malevolent. An encounter with a negative spirit sucks one's energy, making him weak and, sometimes, even sick, like what happened to you.

- (Ike mentioned engaging in psychic activities with his psychic friend.) "A conflict arose when he claimed someone cast a 'death curse' on me. I tried not to believe but it had me worried. Is this possible? This friend conversed with dark beings and having witnessed it, [I felt] guilty because I was brought up a Catholic. This led to our fight and, since then, I had [been bothered by] malignant spirits. I prayed in church, which gave me strength. I would like to hear your explanation of this."

Yes, there is such a thing as a death curse. This is usually done by sorcerers, or *mangkukulam*, usually for a fee. Whether such things work or not depends on the susceptibility of the intended victim. Since these are essentially psychic attacks, one can only defend one's self through psychic means also. This belief is not incompatible with Catholic teaching. Its practice is, however. Study Church history and the Holy Bible and you will find plenty of examples of such occult activities, which are frowned upon by God.

- "I have had vivid and incredible dreams where I met spirits, see events or converse with people I know. A psychic friend said I had the ability to do astral travel and this was where I went. I have even 'faced' a powerful entity and woke up with a bloody nose! I would like to know and to develop these abilities under proper guidance. I tried reading books but found them hard to follow and learn."

Your dreams are not mere dreams—they are most likely real astral travel where you meet various astral beings. Many of them are positive, but sometimes, you can encounter negative entities that may want to harm you.

If you want to know how to further develop your psychic abilities in a scientific and safe way, I strongly suggest you attend my seminars, which are offered every month. No other seminars like this are being conducted in the country, as far as I know.

- "I am almost always bothered by spirits before I sleep. They seem very real. I can feel their presence during those moments. They disappear when I wake up. Though I'm not scared, they keep me from sleeping. As I'm quite busy with work and need my rest, I want to know the best way to deal with those entities when I'm alone. I make my dog sleep outside my door so he can bark when stray spirits come to bother me. Please advise me on this. Am I being paranoid?"

You're not paranoid—you're a medium, a natural channel of the spirits. That's part of your personality. You can deal with such entities by talking to them directly and telling them not to bother you. If you are consistent and sincere about it, they'll soon stop bothering you.

I was just wondering: If the spirits entered through your window, would your dog outside your door detect them?

- "After my experiences with the dark side, which I mentioned before, it seems that every now and then, thoughts that are not normally mine and are [even] opposed to mine enter my head and stay there. I have often wondered if these are truly my thoughts, but I know they are not because my actions speak otherwise and I'm constantly fighting them. Is there an explanation for this?"

Yes, your experiences with occult practices have opened up a psychic avenue in your etheric, or energy, field. Through these, negative entities can enter and suggest to you thoughts that are not your own.

This is also one explanation for certain forms of psychosis. It is a kind of spirit possession. Certain thoughts are planted in your mind by negative forces. They are not really yours, but a part of you accepts them. This can lead to a split personality, or some kind of dementia caused by the spirit.

Western psychiatry completely ignores spirit intrusions into a person's mind. That's why they have difficulty treating such cases. Drugs are of no help to these.

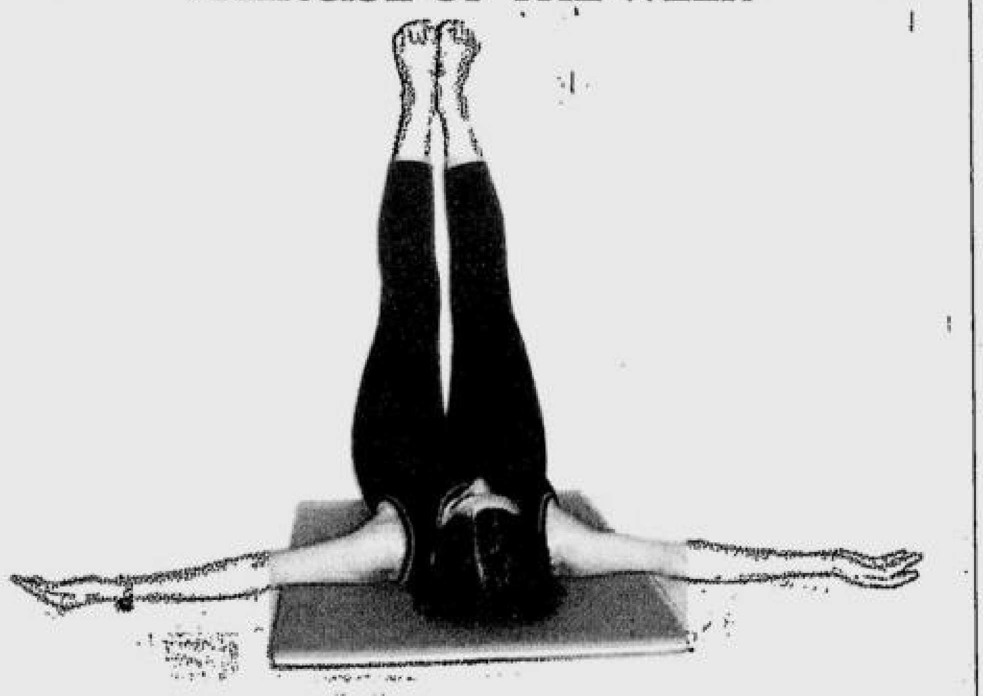
According to psychologist Edith Fiore, author of the book "The Unquiet Dead," over 50 percent of patients in American mental hospitals are not insane, they are possessed! I don't have the statistics in the Philippines, but I suspect it is higher.

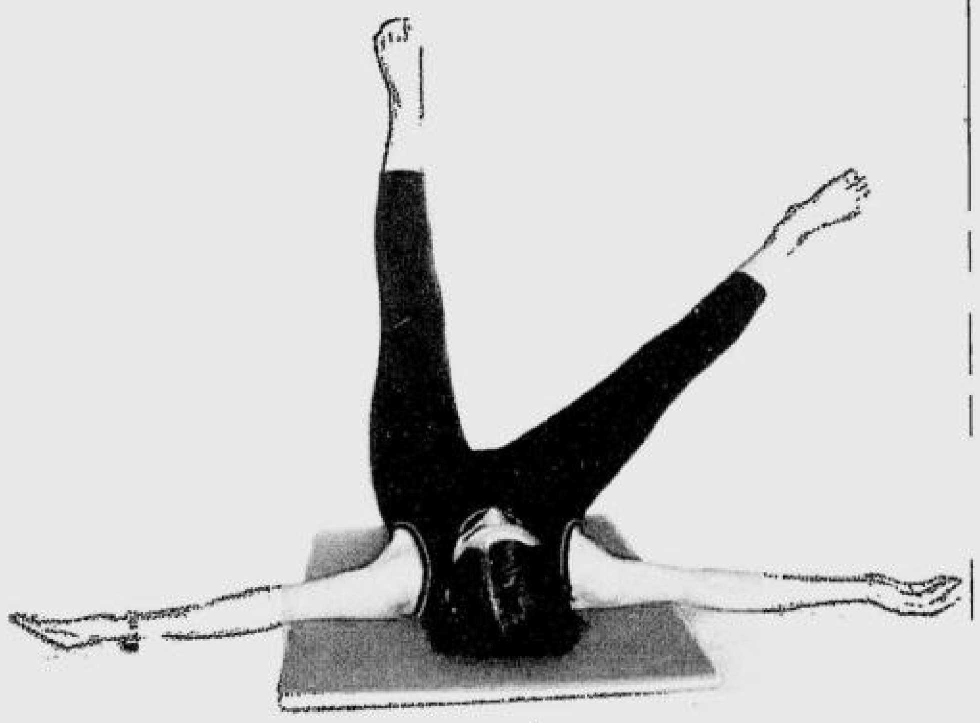
- "I have witnessed the 'transportation' of physical objects from different places. Spirits would take things from my pocket and put them in another, or give me gifts in the form of candies and leave them in my pocket. Is this possible?"

Yes, there are many documented cases of materialization of objects called "apports," which usually take place during séances in spiritist circles. I have seen examples of such apports collected by the late National Artist Guillermo Tolentino, who was a former president of the Union Espiritista Christiana de Filipinas. These were shown to me by University of the Philippines professor and guidance counselor Esperanza Limcaco, herself a spiritist.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK





One-Sided V-Legs

STRENGTHENS and stretches the inner thighs; strengthens the abdominal muscles because they are used as stabilizers.

Equipment
Exercise mat

Exercise Technique

1. Lie down on a mat with your legs straight up in the air directly over your hips and your arms straight at shoulder level.
2. Slowly lower your right leg to the side and bring it back to the starting position.
3. Do the desired number of repetitions. Repeat on the other leg.

Performance Tips

1. Keep your hips stationary on the mat as you lower and lift your leg.
2. Because this is a one-sided exercise, you will feel your abdominal muscles tightening as you stabilize your torso.
3. Lower your leg only as far as you can control. Properly stabilize your torso on the mat.
4. Beginners should do this exercise against a wall for support.
5. Another variation is to do alternating legs.

Repetitions
Do 10 repetitions on each side.

Do cellulite 'cures' work?

From page C1

Tanned skin makes cellulite look less obvious. Tanned thighs even look smaller than pasty white thighs, in much the same manner that dark denim jeans will make your rear end look smaller than white jeans. Want more proof? Spend a few days at the beach and watch your cellulite "improve" by the day.

But since real tanning can cause skin damage, self-tanning creams are the next best thing. Unfortunately, they aren't the easiest things to apply. You can end up with "streaky" skin or orange palms. It's too bad that local skin care centers don't offer a tanning lotion service.

The best method I have heard of is one where you stand naked in the middle of a small room and the lotion is applied evenly all over your body in a fine mist from a special machine. Not only are you untouched by human hands, the result is a more natural looking tan.

One product that you might as well forget about trying is Silhouette Cream. Way back in 1995, the US Federal Trade Commission won a case against the manufacturers for falsely claiming that their product could break down, reduce or eliminate cellulite or fat.

Next week: Pills, machines, surgery and exercise

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its eighth National Fitness Convention on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Three international experts will conduct workshops on group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Topics will include yoga, stability ball, how to develop a marketing plan, Pilates, squat exercise analysis, etc. For more details, call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647 or text (0917) 518-1202.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com. E-mail the author at fitness@attglobal.net.

Forum discusses holistic approach to cancer healing

A FORUM on "Holistic Healing Approach to Cancer: Mind, Body and Spirit" will be held Oct. 25 under the sponsorship of Liz Claiborne, HSBC Red Mastercard and the I Can Serve Foundation. Maritoni Fernandez will emcee.

The forum aims to highlight the work of breast cancer survivor and I Can Serve Foundation volunteer Susan Aycardo in her fight against the disease and how painting helped heal her spirit.

A video on breast self-examination, one of the ways to detect cancer in its early stages, will be presented. Copies of the book written by Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, "I Can Serve: A Network of People, Places and Services for the Philippine Breast Cancer Community," will be given away.

Celeste Sanchez of the Divine Mercy Mobile Center of Music and Arts will focus on healing through music. Anabelle Alejandrino and Michelle Magsaysay will demonstrate the Sheng Zen QiGong, a practice of moving and non-moving meditations. Books on QiGong will be sold.

Maribe Garcia of the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry will talk about the power of prayer to heal. The ministry was founded after 9/11 by Garcia and Fr. Teofilo Rustia.

Throughout this month, the I Can Serve Foundation's ad on breast cancer awareness and survivor accounts will be shown at the Liz Claiborne store.

Refreshments will be served during the forum. Although admission is free, a donation of at least P200 is requested for projects of the I Can Serve Foundation and the Cua Bang Foundation. Call 633-6434 or 634-6960.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
Rx MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is an executive check-up, can we avail of it?

Executive check-up or ECU, as it is commonly referred to is a "packaged" comprehensive medical check-up done to determine one's health status or to diagnose an ailment. There are various types of ECU, some may even require a person to stay overnight in a hospital. ECU is not included in the standard HMO program. It is more usual to have this added benefit for the officers of corporate accounts. The ECU benefit may also be provided on a *fee for service basis* with a corresponding service charge.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Meet **Dr. Zenaida Lim,** MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan City. *"Doktora Lim"*, as she is frequently referred to, is a pioneer member of our medical service provider team who joined the HMO in its early beginnings in 1987. Dr. Lim finished Medicine at Manila Central University then later chose to specialize in OB-Gynecology, finishing her residency training also at MCU-FDTMF Hospital. Doc Zenaida, a proud member of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society has with her more than 20 years of clinical practice. Her experience and dedication to her profession makes her one of MEDICard's most revered doctors. You may visit Dr. Zenaida Lim for your consultation needs at her clinic Room KD1, from Mondays to Fridays 10:30 AM until 3 in the afternoon.

With her more than 37 years of clinical practice, MEDICard takes pride in having **Dr. Clarita Tan-Arceo** as a member of its medical service team. Dr. Arceo is based in United Doctors Medical Center (UDMC) in Quezon City. She finished Medicine at the Far Eastern University and specializes in Family Medicine. She also subspecializes in both OB-Gynecology and Industrial (Occupational) Medicine. Doc Clarita is a Fellow and Diplomate of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians and the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine. She keeps herself abreast on developments in her field by frequently attending seminars and training. You may visit her for consultations at her clinic Room 953, from Mondays to Fridays, except Wednesdays, 7 AM to 3 PM and on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 AM to 12 noon.

Dr. Jesus Fernando B. Inciong is MEDICard's accredited specialist in Mary Mediatrix Medical Center in Lipa City, Batangas. Doc Jeff, as he is known to most finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. He later chose to specialize in General Surgery, earning his residency training at St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Inciong is a Diplomate to the Philippine Board of Surgery and Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons. He spends his free time with his wife, Anesthesiologist, Dr. Joy Inciong and their two children, and by enjoying his favorite hobbies, SCUBA diving and basketball. You may visit him for consultations at Room 108 of the Medical Arts Bldg. every Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. **For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at** feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

A supplement made possible by Kimbies®

"MIDWIFERY WITHOUT BORDERS"

Integrated Midwives Association
of the Philippines, Inc.

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc.** on the occasion of your *Annual Convention.*

I commend you for your commitment to improve the practice of midwifery in the country. More than ever, we need to join hands and double our efforts to make our nation a land where all Filipinos can live healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. The services that you provide encapsulate this administration's thrust to improve the quality of life of our people, especially in the countryside.

This year's convention with its theme, "*Midwifery Without Borders,*" is a manifestation of your strong commitment to keep yourselves abreast with the new trends in your profession. May this occasion inspire you to continuously upgrade your expertise and to intensify your efforts in ensuring a healthy Filipino citizenry.

May you have a fruitful convention. MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE

I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. on the occasion of your 28th Annual Convention.

Through the years, IMAP has been one of the Department of Health's strongest allies in the promotion and protection of the health and welfare of both mothers and their children. It has demonstrated, time and again, its constant support to the implementation of various health programs aimed at improving the well being of the Filipino mother and child.

By emphasizing the influence and reach of midwives as a potent force in Philippine society through your convention's theme, "Midwifery Without Borders," we hope to create an enabling environment which promotes the enhancement of midwifery both as a vocation and as a career. We hope that by doing so, we will be able to ensure the continuous quality improvement of midwifery care in the country.

The Department of Health recognizes your significant contribution towards improving the delivery of quality yet affordable healthcare in our country. We likewise wish you greater success in all your endeavors as you reach new heights in the name of service to the Filipino people.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

MESSAGE

It is with great pride that I extend my warmest felicitations to the **Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc.** as they celebrate the **Midwifery week** with a National Convention on October 22-25 this year in Iloilo City.

With the theme for this year's convention, **"Midwifery Without Borders,"** the thrust of the Arroyo administration to provide our people with efficient delivery of health services may be realized upon because of professional staff that will respond to emergency and other health needs.

It is hoped that you transform this festive occasion into something beneficial that will primarily help the government in facing the various challenges of local governance.

And so, as you mark another milestone of public service, may you continue to be our partners in providing our people with efficient and quality health services.

Mabuhay and May God Bless you all!

JOSE D. LINA JR.
Secretary

MESSAGE

It is with excitement and pleasure we warmly welcome delegates, guests, lecturers and benefactors to the 28th annual convention of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. in the historical city of Iloilo!

The practice of Midwifery is influenced by a variety of factors ranging from advances in the medical, political, and socio-economic aspects in the community and the country. It is in this light that the theme, "Midwifery Without Borders," was chosen to embody the ideals and directions of Midwifery practice.

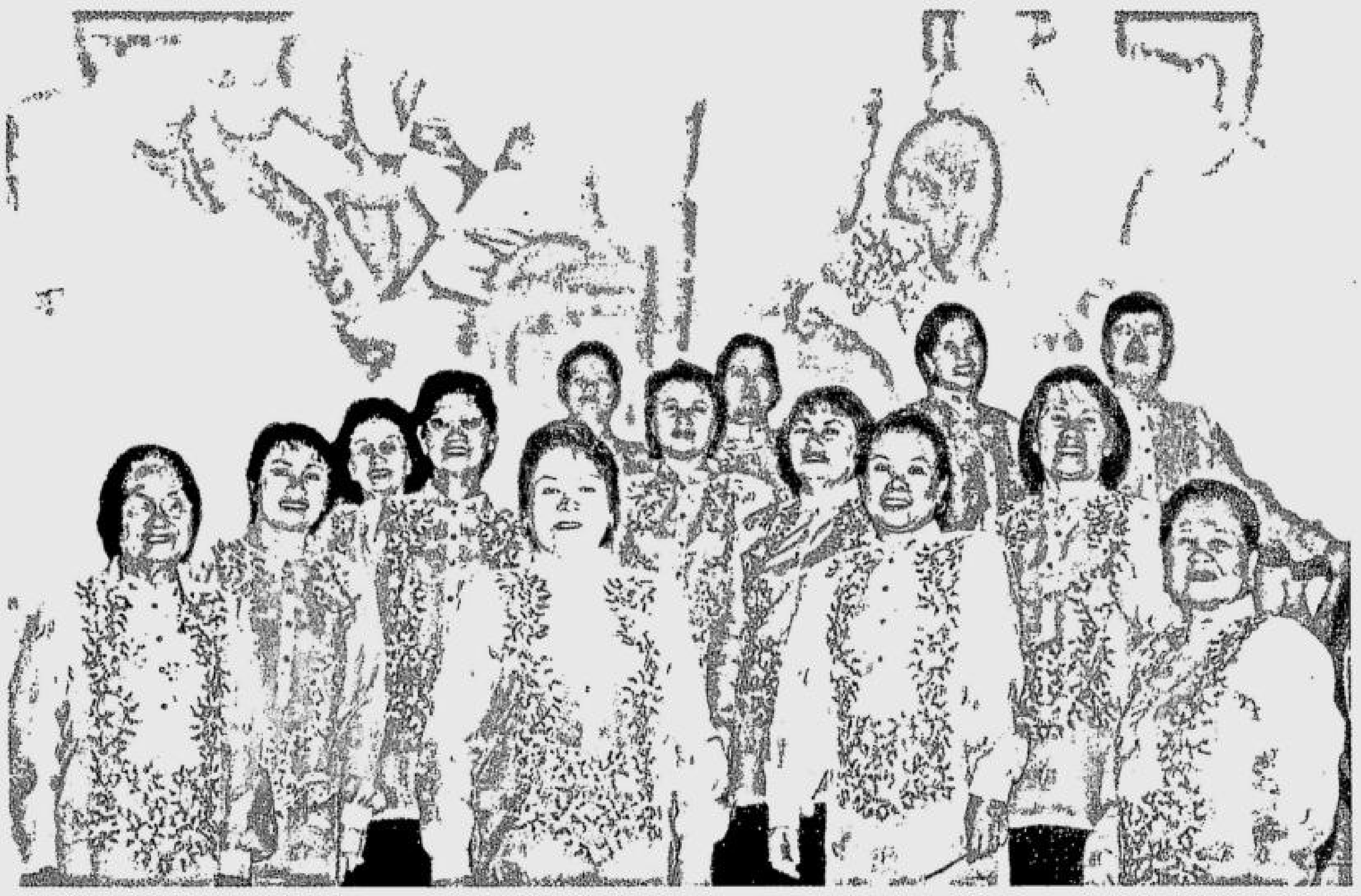
It is hoped that the 28th annual convention will further inspire midwives to care unselfishly for the Filipino women regardless of place of residence, status, and position in society. Swift and unwavering action for health is demanded of us all.

To achieve this, we must continuously pursue higher education, enhance skills in midwifery care, must be updated with current health trends, and the infinite thirst to improve health care services to our target clientele.

Lastly, I wish you all a pleasant, happy and memorable stay in Iloilo City – the City of smiles!

God Bless Us All!

ALICE SANZ DE LA GENTE
IMAP, National President



For many Filipino mothers, midwives are seen as the bridge that connects their journey from pregnancy to motherhood. And for many years, midwives have been playing this vital yet traditional function in their profession.

Although assisting in childbirth remains a vital role for midwives, they are now seen as very influential healthcare agents for many women and children, especially in areas where medical institutions are not in abundance.

Midwives have educated countless women about the importance of taking care of their bodies, maintaining proper hygiene and disproving healthcare misconceptions and myths. They are also at the frontline of serving the health needs of many Filipinos and promoting the immense benefits of practicing preventive healthcare such as sanitation, immunization and prenatal checkups.

With these rapidly expanding roles that midwives are playing today, midwives have ceased to be merely involved in childbearing, they have metamorphosed to become confidantes and trusted healthcare partners of many Filipinos. Thus, the theme for this year's midwifery convention: "Midwifery Beyond Borders."

It is also for this very reason that the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) has endeavored to constantly improve the capabilities of Filipino midwives by pushing for higher midwifery education in the country.

A milestone for IMAP was the "birth" of the IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery in Iloilo City, which offers a three-year midwifery curriculum to deserving students. This is designed to provide Filipino midwives with the opportunity to improve their health-related skills and intellectual capacities.

The IMAP school program also gives midwives the opportunity to work abroad where one of the requirements is that they undergo a three-year midwifery curriculum. Presently, midwives only need to undergo two years of midwifery education to be able to practice the profession in the country.

Aside from setting up this learning institution, IMAP boasts of having one of the country's largest, most innovative, most geographically dispersed but cohesive organization. Not many can lay claim to this.

IMAP president Alice Sanz de la Gente says that IMAP has made significant contributions to the Philippine healthcare landscape such as the decline of infant mortality in the country.

De la Gente admits that while IMAP has made significant inroads in the midwifery profession in the country, there remains a lot of hurdles to surpass. She is, however, confident that with the continuing support for IMAP and all the midwives, these challenges will be met.

As Madam Alice (as she is fondly called by colleagues) would often say, they will not only endure, they will prevail and the best is yet to come.

MIDWIFERY THROUGH THE DECADES

by Alice Sanz de la Gente

In the early years, midwifery as a profession was relatively unknown until Dr. Jose Fabella founded the first school of midwifery in May 1922, the Maternity and Children's Hospital, now known as Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Fabella spearheaded the organization of the premier school of midwifery in the country with the foremost objective of training young women in midwifery to supplant the *hilots*. High school graduates were accepted to train in midwifery for one year. From thereon, the services of graduate midwives were actively utilized in the healthcare community. Cognizant of the need to further improve midwifery education, the one-year course was expanded to a year-and-a-half with additional training on domiciliary service.

Thereafter, the midwifery profession has reached a higher standard and its activities have increased in scope. As a result, a group of dynamic midwives recognized the need to put up an organization of midwives, who can serve, train and provide health services and education among colleagues and the community.

It was in 1947 when the Philippine Midwifery Association was born with Atty. Angelina C. Ponce at the helm. Graduates of midwifery schools in the country comprised the initial membership of the organization which sought to improve the practice and education of midwifery in the Philippines.

In August 1961, the Philippine Midwifery Association held its first convention. During that convention, another organization was born, called the National Federation of Filipino Midwives. The NFFM was formally registered on August 22, 1961 and led by Mrs. Leoncio Chuatoco.

Through the years, both associations made considerable inroads in increasing their respective memberships and improving the practice of midwifery. Their paths crossed anew in 1974 when the two organizations were integrated through the efforts of Dr. Ricardo B. Gonzales, then chairman of the Professional Regulatory Commission's Board of Midwifery, into what is now known as the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, or as it is more often referred to, IMAP.

Twenty-eight years later, this alliance continues to reap more benefits for the midwifery profession and allows midwives to make more significant contributions to the healthcare landscape.

Each chapter of IMAP goes through regular scientific seminars every quarter to update members about emerging trends and new techniques useful to their practice of midwifery.

IMAP, likewise, conducts regular lectures where midwives talk to pregnant mothers about various pregnancy issues in an attempt to provide them with information about proper care and dispel a number of pregnancy myths.

IMAP has taken midwives to a higher level of learning and practice, making them more attuned to the demands of the times. But aside from arming midwives with the hope for a better future, IMAP is also helping secure the promise of better health and a better life for Filipinos.

A PARTNERSHIP THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. early on recognized the valuable contributions of midwives as frontliners in the country's healthcare system. It has long realized that midwives have already transcended their traditional role of facilitating childbirth and are now regarded as pillars in the healthcare community for their assistance in promoting maternal and child care.

Through its almost-decade-long partnership with the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Kimberly-Clark Philippines continuously seeks to raise the bar in the profession and provide midwives with additional skills and know-how to further their delivery of healthcare services to Filipinos.

Kimberly-Clark has committed to giving educational support to children of midwives who want to similarly pursue midwifery education but are unable to do so because of financial difficulties. Through this scholarship program, Kimberly-Clark and IMAP ensure a steady stream of new midwives, who together with the present set of midwives, are giving mothers and children their first encounters with proper healthcare.

The commitment of Kimberly-Clark to educating midwives extends to the present crop of midwives through professional education seminars. The company believes that like all other medical-related professions, midwives have to be armed with continuing education to give them updated knowledge and techniques that would better their being agents for the healthcare of women, newborns and children.

With the extensive network of midwives that IMAP possesses, the benefits derived by women have become more felt than ever. More and more women are now becoming aware of their bodies' needs through the health information, which the IMAP network disseminates.

This partnership with IMAP has now reached its eighth year and Kimberly-Clark says there's nowhere to go but grow. This, it believes, is a long-term program for the company. Along with the organization, it constantly spots and identifies new avenues that heighten the partnership—all with the end view of delivering better healthcare for Filipinos through this vital sector of the Philippine healthcare community.

Kimberly-Clark *Philippines Inc.* is a proud partner of the 28th IMAP Convention Kimbies®

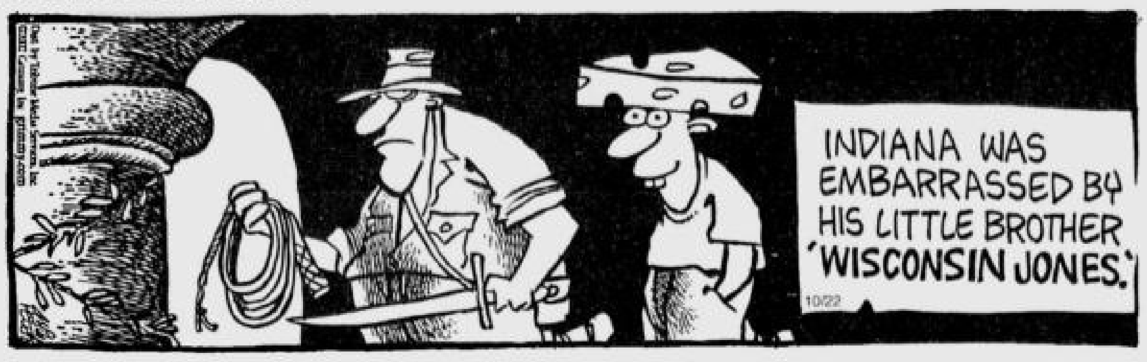
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ComicRelief

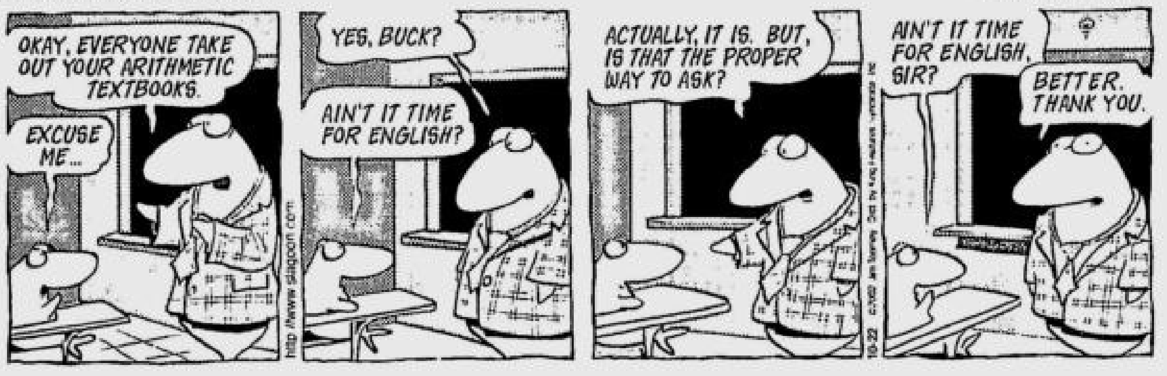
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2002

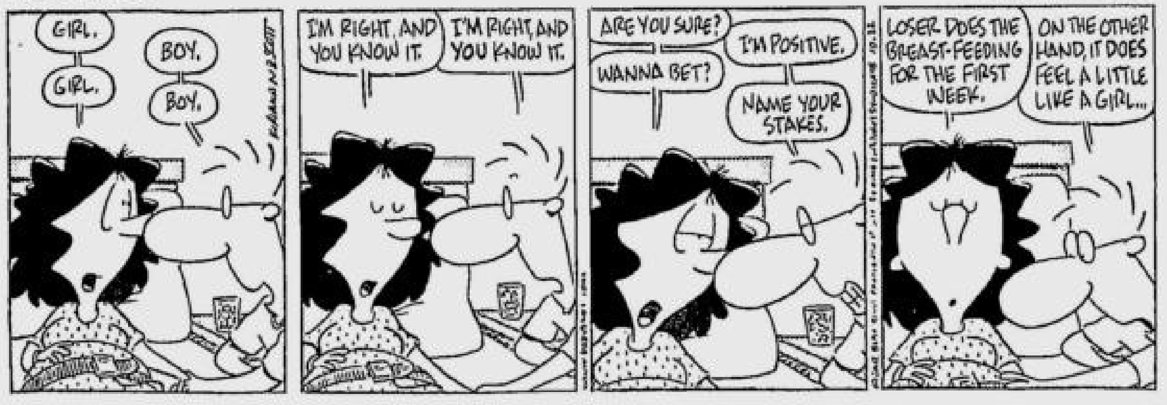
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


INDIANA WAS EMBARRASSED BY HIS LITTLE BROTHER 'WISCONSIN JONES.'
10/22

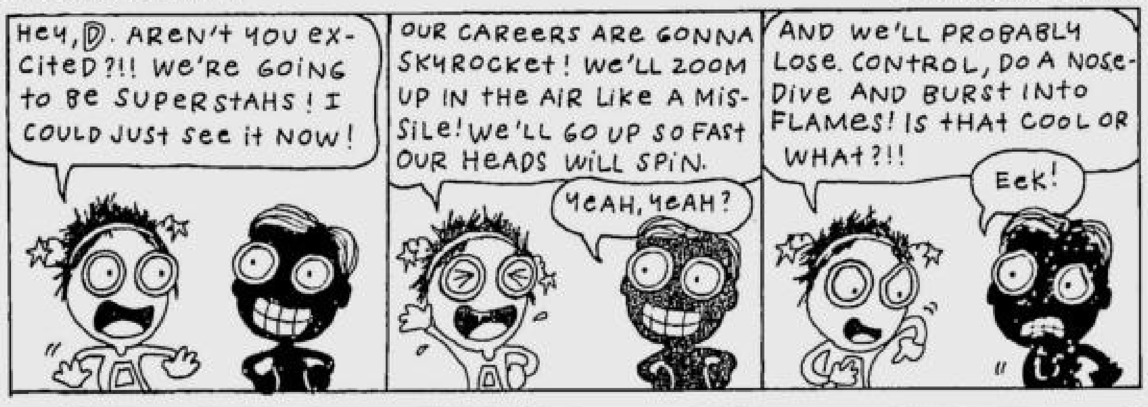
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, EVERYONE TAKE OUT YOUR ARITHMETIC TEXTBOOKS.
EXCUSE ME...
YES, BUCK?
AIN'T IT TIME FOR ENGLISH?
ACTUALLY, IT IS. BUT, IS THAT THE PROPER WAY TO ASK?
AIN'T IT TIME FOR ENGLISH, SIR?
BETTER. THANK YOU.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


GIRL.
GIRL.
BOY.
BOY.
I'M RIGHT, AND YOU KNOW IT.
I'M RIGHT, AND YOU KNOW IT.
ARE YOU SURE?
WANNA BET?
I'M POSITIVE.
NAME YOUR STAKES.
LOSER DOES THE BREAST-FEEDING FOR THE FIRST WEEK.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOES FEEL A LITTLE LIKE A GIRL...

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, D. AREN'T YOU EXCITED?!! WE'RE GOING TO BE SUPERSTAHS! I COULD JUST SEE IT NOW!
OUR CAREERS ARE GONNA SKYROCKET! WE'LL ZOOM UP IN THE AIR LIKE A MISSILE! WE'LL GO UP SO FAST OUR HEADS WILL SPIN.
YEAH, YEAH?
AND WE'LL PROBABLY LOSE CONTROL, DO A NOSE-DIVE AND BURST INTO FLAMES! IS THAT COOL OR WHAT?!!
Eek!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeff Goldblum, Catherine Deneuve, Annette Funicello, Brian Boitano

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotional mindset stand in the way of some phenomenal opportunities this year. Your passionate way of dealing with projects and people will help you to move in a positive direction. Interacting with people will be the key to keeping a harmonious outlook. Your numbers are 3, 13, 26, 31, 38, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ambitious mood may not go over well with loved ones. Find a quiet spot where you can work diligently and stay out of the way. Visitors may relieve the tension.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. Get together with people you find mentally stimulating. You could really use some inspiration right now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect to have some problems with your mate if you have been spending too much time away from home. You may want to rework your schedule. Your fickle nature may cause jealousy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you take on too much, you will find yourself in a martyr's position once again. It will deplete your energy and resources and cause others to resent your efforts. Colleagues may try to undermine you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. You will have to be fearless. This is a great day to get out and enjoy an entertaining evening with friends or lovers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make favorable real estate offers today. You can make money if you pursue your own business. This is the time to take chances where business ventures and money are concerned.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need something that will take your mind off everything. Travel and educational pursuits will help alleviate the stress. You need to pamper yourself for a change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is not the best day to visit relatives. You will be particularly sensitive to their criticisms. Doing odd jobs around the house will be appreciated by loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do not sign contracts or get involved in dubious financial deals. Use discretion when talking to others. Gambling should not be considered. There is too much uncertainty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunities to make money may interfere with your personal plans. Your loved ones may be counting on you to be around more. Organize some outings that will be fun for everyone, including yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The advice you get today may be based on false information. Conduct your own investigation. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. Be discriminating.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will enjoy getting together with friends and children to share in special events that the kids have worked hard to present. Be supportive and make sure the youngsters know how much you appreciate their efforts.

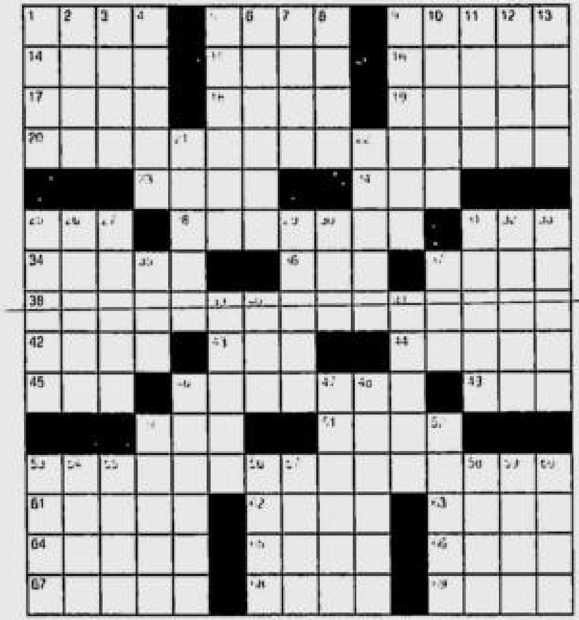
Birthday Baby: You will be creative and inventive, but you will also have a tendency to be stubborn and difficult when someone doesn't understand what you are trying to do. You won't let anyone stand in the way of your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Rip off
5 Lat. list-ender
9 Coolidge's VP
14 "Africa" group
15 Bird of peace
16 Skirt
17 Aroma
18 Think-tank product
19 Keyboard comic Victor
20 Pulp producer?
23 Weapons talks, briefly
24 Concealed
25 Gym padding
28 Teases
31 Summer cooler
34 __ committee
36 Shoe width
37 Cogito __ sum
38 Con pro?
42 Hideous creature
43 6/5/68 assassination victim
44 Second decade
45 Carmine
46 Dupes
49 AAA suggestion
50 Barstool drop-off
51 Draft classification
53 Man of the manor?
61 Revere
62 Exchange charge
63 Leisure
64 Vacation ship
65 Tangible
66 Actor Arkin
67 Slumgullion and goulash
68 Fax button
69 Framing upright

DOWN
1 Wait a minute!
2 Musical conclusion
3 On the peak of
4 __ the pity
5 Suitable as food
6 So far
7 With, in Arles
8 Security problem
9 Rubble
10 Keep clear of
11 Viral lump
12 Border
13 Prognosticator
21 Dressing option
22 "__ of Fortune"
25 Military officer
26 Traditional saying
27 Greene's "The __ Man"
29 Items in cubicles
30 Meriwether or Grant
31 Wok, e.g.
32 Go-between
33 Scandinavian
35 Senor's cheer
37 Mama in a wool coat?
39 Speak pompously
40 Classroom instructors' grp.
41 Perpetered
46 Gondoliers
47 Sea off Corfu
48 Wrap around
50 Scatter
52 Vicinities
53 Guys' dates
54 Perfect prose
55 Fourth little piggy's fare
56 Neighboring planet
57 "The African Queen" screenwriter
58 Beer ingredient
59 Jacob's twin brother
60 Tear apart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64 65 66
67 68 69

By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

10/22/02

Monday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	I	Z	A	■	B	O	W	E	R	■	P	A	D
L	E	N	I	N	■	E	V	O	K	E	■	A	D	O
F	I	N	G	E	R	L	A	K	E	S	■	L	O	T
■	■	■	■	M	I	L	L	S	■	T	E	M	P	T
S	C	H	L	O	S	S	■	■	T	O	A	S	T	Y
E	L	A	I	N	E	■	S	T	I	R	U	P	■	■
R	A	R	E	E	■	W	H	I	N	E	■	R	O	Y
U	R	D	U	■	B	R	A	D	Y	■	M	I	C	E
M	E	A	■	F	O	A	M	Y	■	M	A	N	T	A
■	■	S	C	R	A	P	E	■	N	U	G	G	E	T
R	E	N	O	I	R	■	■	D	E	S	I	S	T	S
A	D	A	M	S	■	S	A	I	L	S	■	■	■	■
I	D	I	■	K	N	U	C	K	L	E	H	E	A	D
N	I	L	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	L	A	R	V	A
Y	E	S	■	D	E	E	D	S	■	S	T	E	A	M

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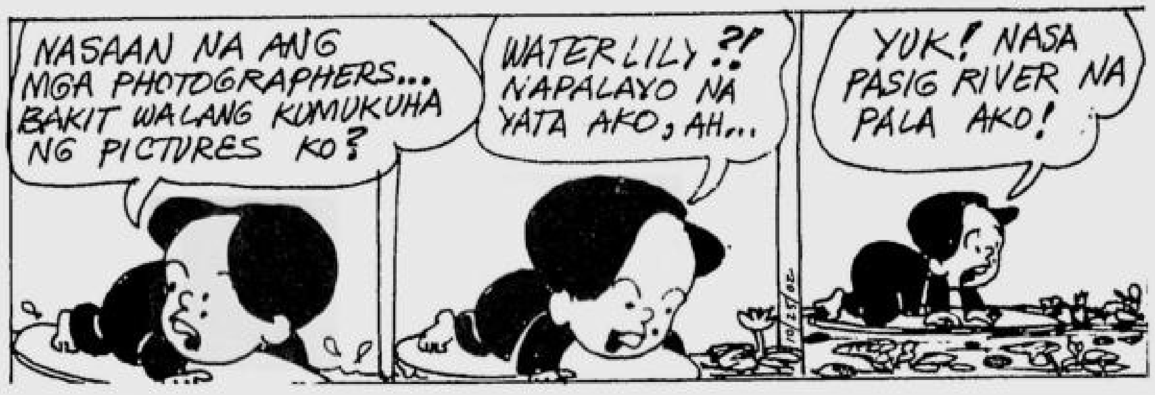
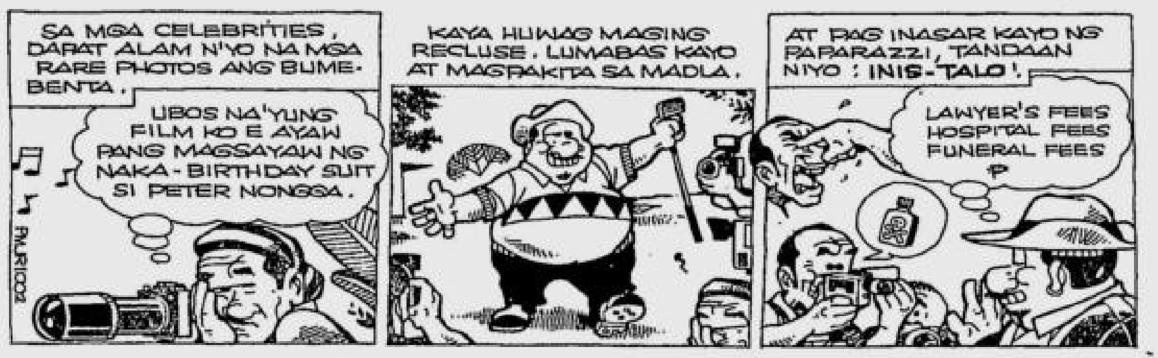
10/22/02

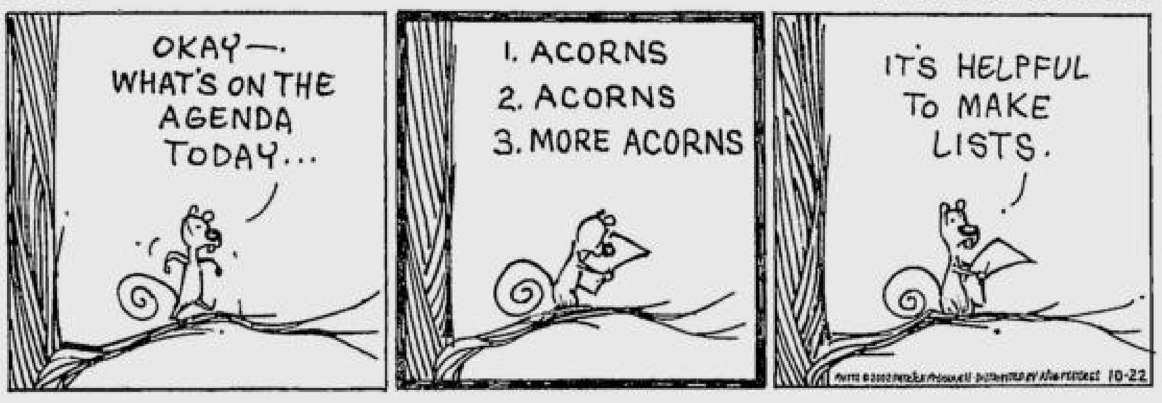
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NASAAN NA ANG MGA PHOTOGRAPHERS... BAKIT WALANG KUMUKUHA NG PICTURES KO?
WATERLILY ?! NAPALAYO NA YATA AKO, AH...
YUK! NASA PASIG RIVER NA PALA AKO!

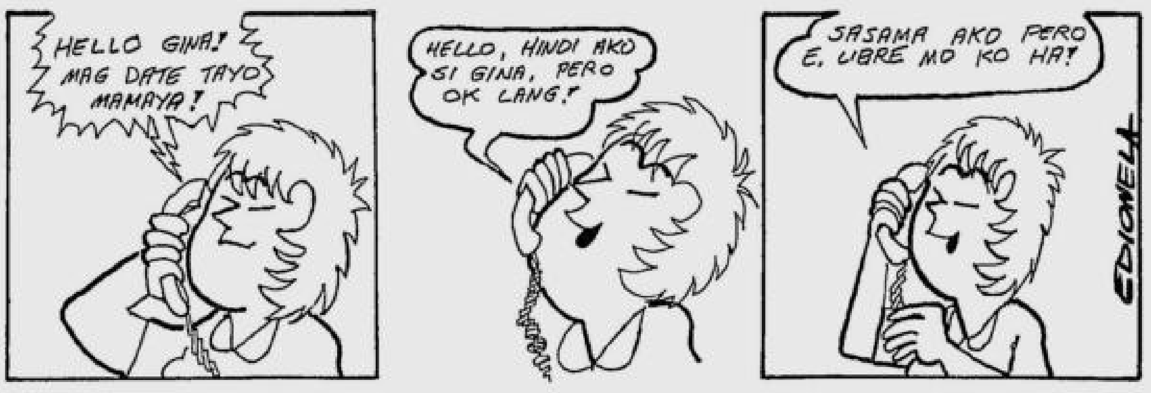
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA MGA CELEBRITIES, DAPAT ALAM N'YO NA MGA RARE PHOTOS ANG BUMEBENTA.
UBOS NA'YUNG FILM KO E AYAW PANG MAGSAYAW NG NAKA-BIRTHDAY SUIT SI PETER NONGSA.
KAYA HUWAG MAGING RECLUSE. LUMABAS KAYO AT MAGPAKITA SA MADLA.
AT PAG INASAR KAYO NG PAPARAZZI, TANDAAN NIYO : INIS-TALO!
LAWYER'S FEES HOSPITAL FEES FUNERAL FEES
PAURICO2

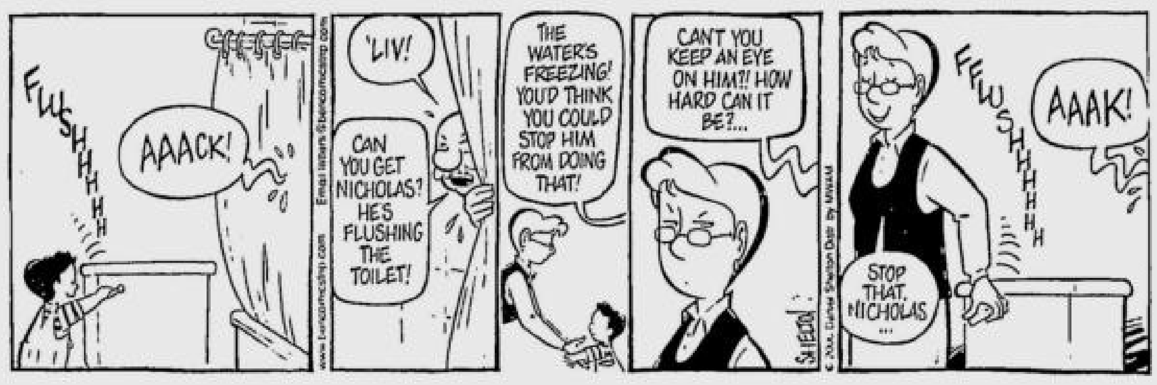
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OKAY— WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA TODAY...
1. ACORNS
2. ACORNS
3. MORE ACORNS
IT'S HELPFUL TO MAKE LISTS.
10-22

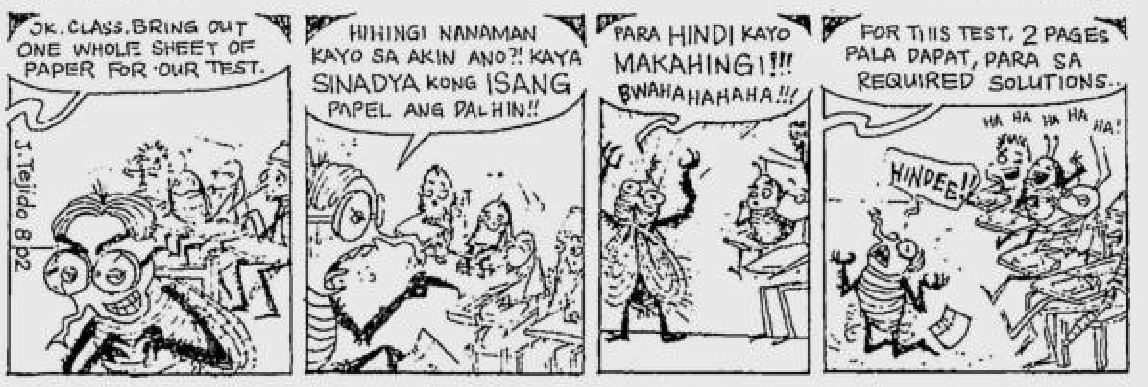
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


HELLO GINA! MAG DATE TAYO MAMAYA!
HELLO, HINDI AKO SI GINA, PERO OK LANG!
SASAMA AKO PERO E, UBRE MO KO HA!
EDIONELA

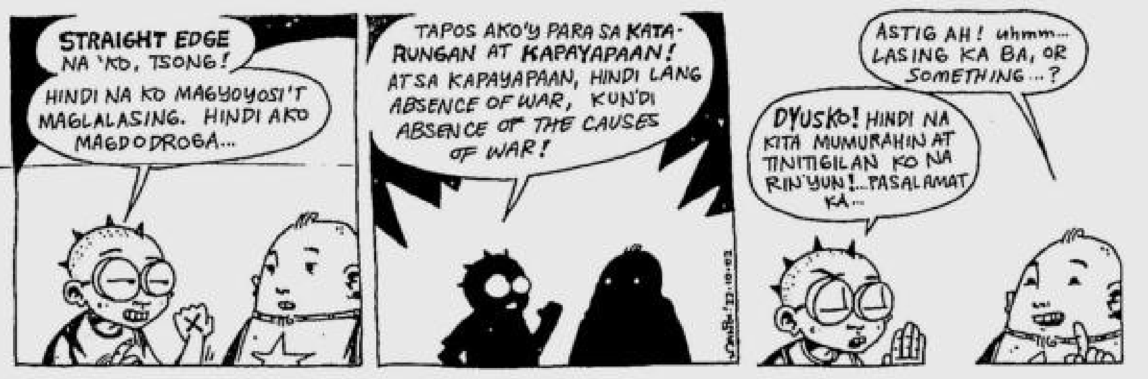
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


FLUSHHHH
AAACK!
'LIV!
CAN YOU GET NICHOLAS? HE'S FLUSHING THE TOILET!
THE WATER'S FREEZING! YOU'D THINK YOU COULD STOP HIM FROM DOING THAT!
CAN'T YOU KEEP AN EYE ON HIM?! HOW HARD CAN IT BE?...
FFLUSHHHHH
AAAK!
STOP THAT, NICHOLAS...
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

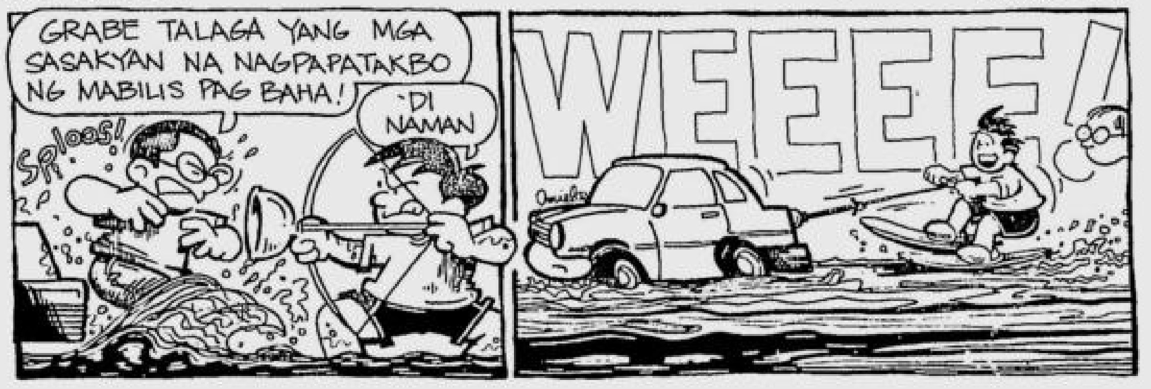
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OK. CLASS. BRING OUT ONE WHOLE SHEET OF PAPER FOR OUR TEST.
J. Tejido 8 02
HIHINGI NANAMAN KAYO SA AKIN ANO?! KAYA SINADYA KONG ISANG PAPEL ANG DALHIN!!
PARA HINDI KAYO MAKAHINGI!!! BWAHAHAHAHA!!!
FOR THIS TEST, 2 PAGES PALA DAPAT, PARA SA REQUIRED SOLUTIONS.
HA HA HA HA HA!
HINDEE!!

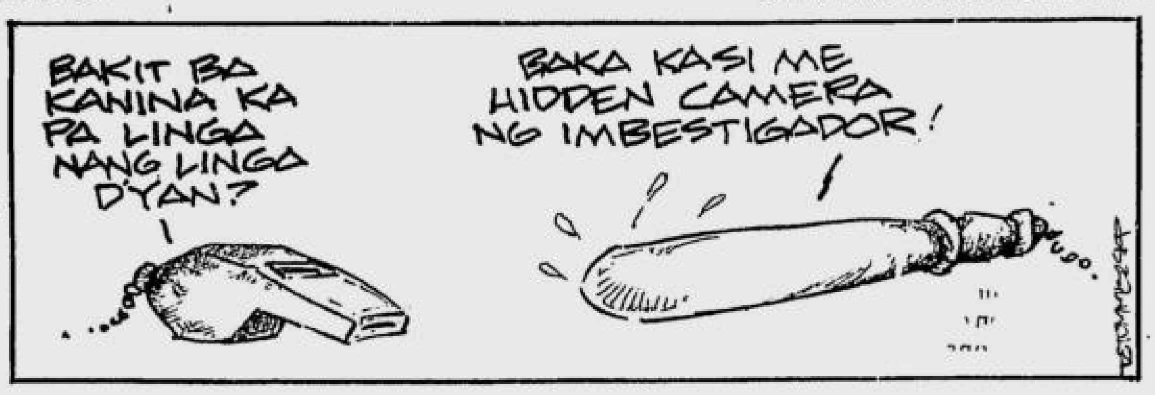
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


STRAIGHT EDGE NA 'KO, TSONG! HINDI NA KO MAGYOYOSI'T MAGLALASING. HINDI AKO MAGDODROGA...
TAPOS AKO'Y PARA SA KATARUNGAN AT KAPAYAPAAN! AT SA KAPAYAPAAN, HINDI LANG ABSENCE OF WAR, KUN'DI ABSENCE OF THE CAUSES OF WAR!
ASTIG AH! uhmm... LASING KA BA, OR SOMETHING...?
DYUSKO! HINDI NA KITA MUMURAHIN AT TINITIGILAN KO NA RIN 'YUN!... PASALAMAT KA...

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


GRABE TALAGA YANG MGA SASAKYAN NA NAGPAPATAKBO NG MABILIS PAG BAHA!
'DI NAMAN
SPLOOSH!
WEEEE!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA KANINA KA PA LINGA NANG LINGA DYAN?
BAKA KASI ME HIDDEN CAMERA NG IMBESTIGADOR!

PHILIPPINE Marathon Team Eduardo Buenavista, Cristabel Martes and Allan Balester take a break in their Parca jackets, especially designed by Adidas for the 14th Busan Asian Games.

Philippines sends stylish team to Busan

ADIDAS and fashion designer Rajo Laurel collaborated for a stylish Team Philippines in the 14th Busan Asian Games.

Laurel designed a training outfit in striking black and red, and a competition uniform in cool blue and gray for Team Philippines.

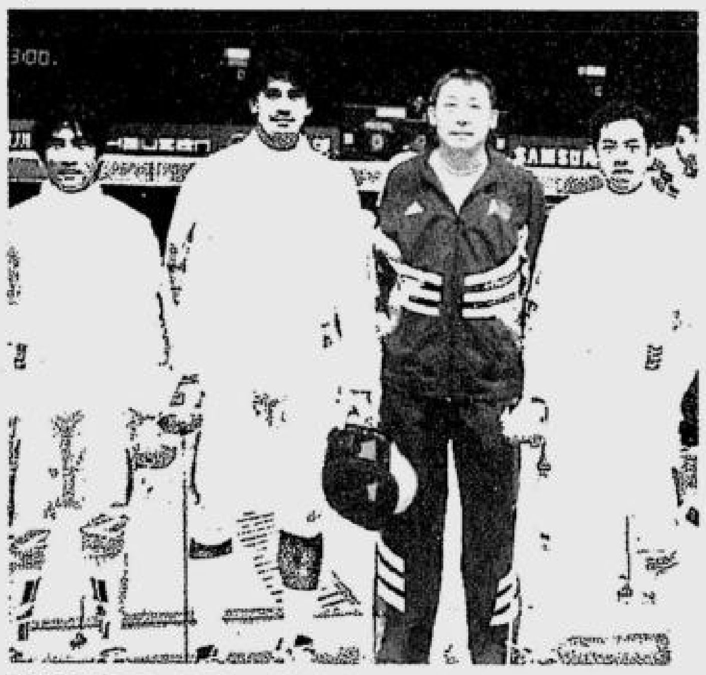
On the other hand, Adidas provided the kind of gear athletes needed to perform at their top levels, ensuring that function came with form. The sports gear company, mindful of the cold weather in Busan and the need for athletes to keep muscles limber and warm to prevent injuries, provided the players with Parca jackets that kept the team warm, with their fleece linings and waterproof acrylic coatings.

During competition, athletes got the comfort and support they needed with clothes like Adidas' Clima Line, which wicked away moisture from the body and kept body temperature at ideal levels.

As for the feet, which had to take a lot of pounding on the court, the ring or the track, Clima Cool footwear from Adidas kept them well ventilated and cushioned. The footwear uses lightweight durable material that doesn't hinder athletic performance.

ADIDAS and Rajo Laurel worked hand in hand to design these striking red-and-black track suits.

THE TEAM Philippines 2002 kept their cool during the 14th Busan Asian Games in the blue-and-gray Clima collection designed by Adidas.



FENCING Coach Tong Wei—in a track suit especially designed by Adidas—takes a breather with the Philippine Fencing Team, Richard Gomez, Arman Barnal and Bino Victorino.

October is lung disease prevention month

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the request of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) to make October as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Prevention Month.

Every week this month, PCCP will have forums in training institutions such as the Lung Center, Philippine General Hospital, Manila Doctors Hospital, University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Philippine Veterans Hospital and Philippine Heart Center in Metro Manila; De la Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite; and hospitals in Davao, Dagupan, Tuguegarao, Batangas and Dumaguete. Call 927-0343 or 924-9204.

Discounted ultrasound for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

HEALTHWAY Medical Clinics, the country's biggest chain of outpatient clinics, celebrates Breast Cancer Awareness month by offering breast ultrasound at a discounted rate, along with free consultation with an in-house medical specialist, until Dec. 31.

Early detection can prevent the more serious consequences of breast cancer. Aside from breast self-examination, ultrasound, a simple and non-invasive way of looking inside the breast tissue, is another useful test.

Avail of discounted breast ultrasound at any Healthway Medical Clinics and have a free medical consultation. Call Irma Rivera at 892-3731, 814-0679 or 814-0691.

Q&A on vitamins, nutraceuticals and more

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

ILLUSTRATION. STEPH BRAVO

What are vitamins?

"Vitamins are organic substances necessary for life...essential to the normal functioning of our bodies." ("Vitamin Bible for the 21st century"—Earl Mindell)

They can be derived from plants, animals and food substances, unless they are synthetic. When not taken directly from food, vitamins are available in tablet, capsule, liquid, powder, spray patch and injection forms.

Can vitamin supplements replace food?

No, they cannot. Without food, vitamins cannot be absorbed by the body. Supplements cannot meet all the body's nutritional requirements. You cannot stop eating and rely on vitamin supplements to stay healthy.

How do vitamins work?

The body needs carbohydrates, fat and proteins (made up of amino acids) for energy. But they can produce energy only when released by vitamins and minerals.

How important are minerals?

The body needs both minerals and vitamins. Without minerals, vitamins will not be able to perform their functions or be absorbed by the body. This is why vitamins and minerals go together. The top seven minerals a person needs are calcium, iodine, magnesium, zinc, selenium, iron, phosphorous.

When is the best time to take vitamins?

While physicians may differ in their opinions, it may be best to take vitamins at night or during your heaviest meal. You are likely to derive more benefits from them longer on a full stomach.

What are antioxidants?

Antioxidants, nicknamed the good guys, protect the body from free radicals (the bad guys) that can cause a number of serious health problems. They include enzymes, amino acids, supplements, minerals and vitamins. The burning of fuel for energy (digestion) every day already results in an unnecessary by-product—free radicals. Other factors like pollution, stress, smoking, drinking excess alcohol, eating charcoal-broiled food and excessive exercise, worsen the problem, causing damage to the cells and weakening the immune system.

The body produces its own natural antioxidants like melatonin, coenzyme, Q-10, glutathione, catalase, Vitamin A, alpha and beta carotene, Vitamin C and E, lipoic acid, selenium, superoxide dismutase (SOD) and zinc. But as people age, less natural antioxidants are produced while free radicals increase, thereby raising the risk of cancer and heart disease.

Antioxidant-rich foods and supplements are recommended, like green tea extract, gingko biloba, grape seed extract, isoflavones, lutein, lycopene.

What can antioxidants do for me?

- lower cholesterol
- retard aging
- protect against stroke and heart disease
- lower the risk of cancer
- detoxify the body
- strengthen the immune system
- protect against asthma, bronchitis and pulmonary diseases

Do I need to take supplementary antioxidants?

The answer is yes. Food alone cannot meet your body's antioxidant requirements.

Are nutraceuticals safe?

Nutraceuticals are the most exciting breakthrough in preventive medicine. These are derived from natural substances like isoflavones from soybean, which have anticancer properties and anti-depressant benefits from polyphenols, and hypericum from St. John's Wort. Other compounds come from algae, plants and other natural sources and are available in capsules, pills and powders.

Can I get smarter with certain nutrients?

Some nutrients are known to enhance brain functions. Regular antioxidants can help, but there are others like gingko biloba, gotu kola, vitamin E, B3, B6, B12, folic acid, choline and lipoic acid. They will not turn you into a genius but will at least help you remember where you left your reading glasses.

Are there substances I can take or a routine I can do to improve my mood?

The first thing to remember is not to go hungry. Eat something to boost your blood sugar. Follow this with a relaxing herbal tea like ginger, chamomile, peppermint or lavender flowers.

Exercise is a mood enhancer. It stimulates the body to release endorphins, the body's natural feel-good hormones. A good laugh will flood the body with glycol, a natural relaxant.

In the wellness firmament, there is an avalanche of information to improve health and well-being. I hope I was able to answer your questions and guide you along the path to good health.

Love and light!

* * *

Final announcement: Total Wellness, the Body, Mind and Spirit Workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino is onOct. 26, 8:30 a.m-4 p.m., Magellan Room, Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Students will get a 50-percent discount if they have valid school IDs. Call 637-9653 (Tet) or 892-6806 (Antonette). Limited seats only.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

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Hypnosis offers hope of deliverance from nicotine

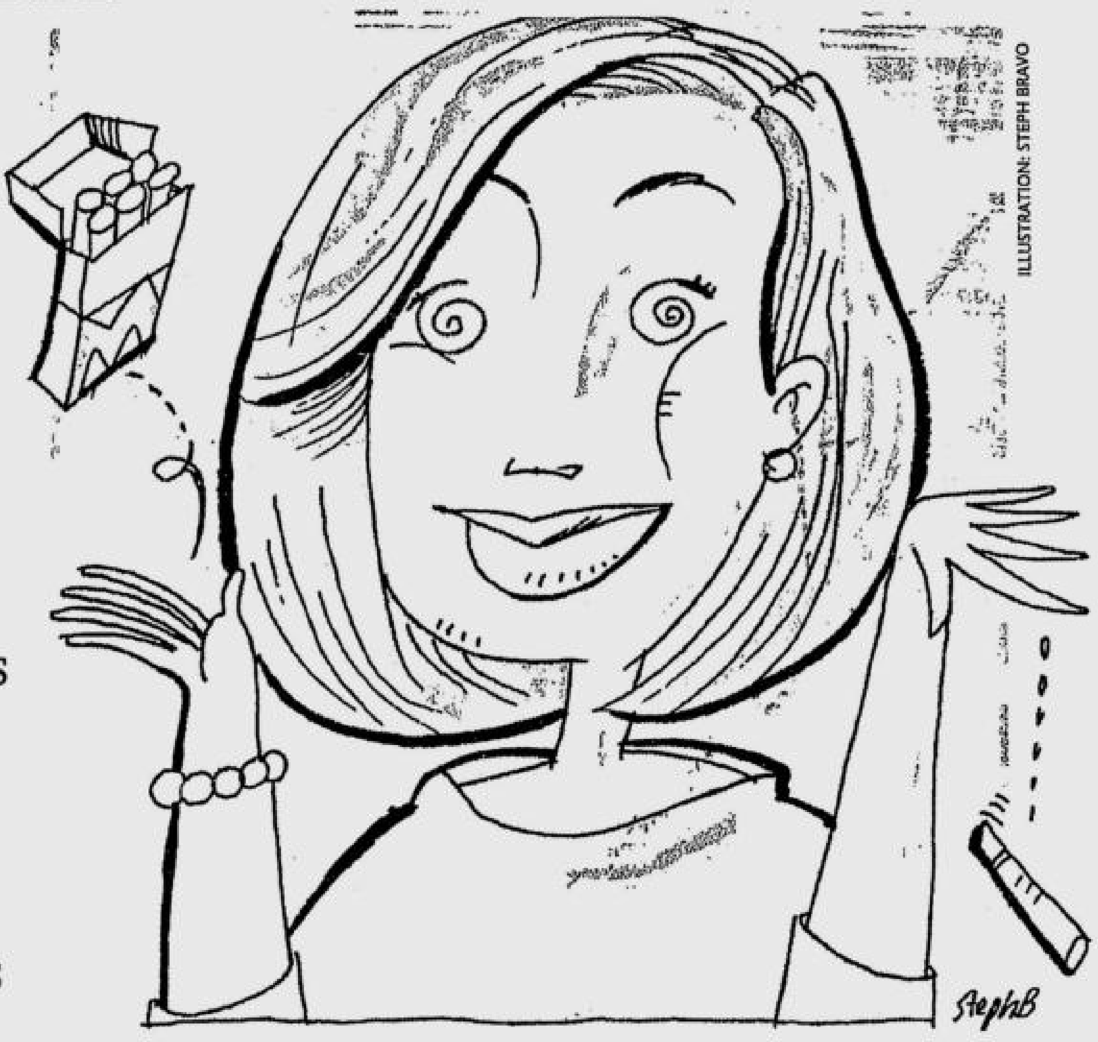

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Anne A. Jambora

Hypnotherapy helps a smoker manage his cravings, minimize withdrawal symptoms and develop coping skills

LIKE a monkey on your back, cigarette smoking is one of the hardest habits to kick. Getting rid of nicotine addiction is so hard that only 2.5 percent of smokers are able to quit the habit permanently. Smokers, despite the very best intentions, seem unable to quit and even when they do, a relapse isn't uncommon.

At the Makati Medical Center's (MMC) Smoking Cessation Program (tel. 815-9911 local 7197), the health staff goes beyond the physical problem of nicotine dependence. They recognize that the urge to grab a stick and take a long drag is rooted deep in the subconscious. Thus, understanding behavior patterns and personal smoking triggers, as well as creating the right mindset, might provide the key to freedom for nicotine "junkies."

Theoretically, when smokers quit, their bodies should be rid of nicotine within 72 hours. But why does the craving for a fix return after weeks, months or even years of living smoke-free?

Hypnosis

Hypnotherapy aims to accomplish what other "cures" have failed to do. A treatment that has been around for 300 years, hypnosis might help smokers quit for good. For instance, although smokers know that smoking is bad for their health, that does not stop them from smoking since it is the subconscious that controls habits, not the intellect.

"The decision to quit rests solely on the smoker," says Dr. Angelita M. Aguirre, assistant director for preventive cardiology of the Makati Medical Center Cardiovascular Rehabilitation and Preventive Cardiology Unit. And, in the practice of hypnosis, that decision is very crucial.

Wannabe quitters must give up smoking not because of peer pressure or medical reasons, but rather because they *want* to. "The goal of hypnosis is to access the subconscious mind. In a state of relaxation, the mind is better able to accept suggestions directly (targeted at) a particular concern," says psychiatrist Ma. Theresa Gustilo-Villasor.

DR. Angelita M. Aguirre says MMC's smoking cessation program hopes to prevent the increasing incidence of chronic obstructive, pulmonary disease, lung cancer and some 20 other life-threatening diseases.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

Saying no doesn't work

But the subconscious mind, apparently, does not respond to negatives, such as telling one's self what not to do—"I will not smoke." It is unable to process a negative word without producing a picture in the mind, the very picture of the thing a person does not want. That picture causes someone to think more about smoking until he finally gives in. That's why many people do the opposite when told "don't, can't, shouldn't, won't"?

A big difference can be made with the right attitude, focusing instead on what one should want instead of what he shouldn't want. Hypnotherapy can help a person develop that focus.

Gustilo-Villasor says that, in a relaxed state, one's attention is focused and heightened. "The therapist will make suggestions designed to help [smokers] formulate specific internal processes (feelings, memories, images and self-talk) that can lead to smoking cessation."

She says smoking, like substance abuse and overeating, are common ways of alleviating feelings of anxiety or stress. "The role of the mind is to link the behavior (such as smoking) with relief from stress. Many physical conditions have a psychological component. Even when a condition is physical in origin, it is often exaggerated or triggered by anxiety," she says.

Contrary to popular belief, Gustilo-Villasor says hypnosis cannot make anyone do something against his will or that contradicts his values. During hypnosis, a client knows exactly where he is the entire time. He is not immobilized and can move, shift positions, hear the phone ring and voices outside the room, and bring himself out of the trance anytime.

Treatments

Gustilo-Villasor is quick to warn that, while hypnosis may have some effect as an anti-smoking procedure, "it is by no means an end-all and be-all treatment for smoking cessation." Nicotine addiction has an impact on both mind and body, so at MMC, hypnosis is packaged with other treatments like stress management, behavior modification techniques, relaxation techniques, short-term counseling and pharmacologic interventions, when necessary.

Aguirre says patients are asked to fill out a questionnaire to determine his personal profile and understand his personal smoking triggers. She says this helps the smoking cessation team to determine the best way for the smoker to manage his cravings, minimize withdrawal symptoms and develop coping skills, especially when with friends who smoke.

Since the program was launched in December 2001, it has had 388 patients. Relapse has been common but Aguirre says that is due more to the nature of dependence and not the failure of therapy. "Evidently, many of those who stopped smoking need support to sustain the ability to resist smoking," she says.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Center offers wide range of face, body care services

CAVITE'S first ever Skin & Spa Center offers a broad range of exclusive services such as facial care, body care, hydrotherapy, dry and wet sauna, hand and foot care, hair and scalp care, and "get-in-shape" slimming treatment.

Served by a courteous and highly qualified medical and paramedical staff, patrons are also offered dermatology consultation and procedures, laser surgery using the latest technology, cosmetic surgery, and even general dentistry and orthodontics.

Skin & Spa patrons in Cavite can look forward to having a mini leisure/sports zone, a garden lounge and coffee shop/snack bar.

Call (046) 434-1526/434-0105.

SPA OFFERS BUY ONE, TAKE ONE

Bali Spa and Wellness Center marks its first anniversary on Oct. 26 with a month of the "buy one, take one" promo. Bali Spa offers the legendary Javanese style of pampering and beauty ritual using all-natural products and body exercises. It has also introduced rejuvenating new treatments: the cellulite massage, collagen facial and royal Javanese hair spa. Call 800-3816 or 800-3880.

Now, shopping has become even more delightful!

Congratulations to the second batch of winners in MasterCard Priceless Delights!

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2. **Monserrat G. David** Urdaneta Village, Makati	2. **Mark V. Rivera** Sampaloc, Manila
3. **Reynaldo Y. Maulit** Tambo, Parañaque City	3. **Jose F.T. Alcantara** Quezon City
4. **Jeneen T. Tangco** San Juan, Metro Manila	4. **Lynford V. Yu** Tomas Morato Ave., Q.C.
5. **Reginald Y. Gamboa** Tondo, Manila	5. **Ma. Lydia L. Enriquez** Quezon City
6. **Herbert P. Santos** Green Meadows, Q.C.	6. **Alexis D. Barrientos** San Juan, Metro Manila
7. **Ma. Teresa Raymundo** Makati City	7. **David K. Avelino** Marulas, Valenzuela
8. **Peter S. Yau** Sta. Mesa, Metro Manila	8. **Wilma D. Yao** San Juan, Metro Manila

POWER PLANT AT ROCKWELL

Shangri-La Plaza

MasterCard

MasterCard Electronic

The draw was held last Sept. 14, 2002 at the MasterCard Activity booth and was witnessed by DTI Representative Mr. Ferdinand Manfoste.

Per Dti-NCR Permit No. 2500, Series of 2002